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East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-008
Monday
13 January 1992

Daily Report
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Japan

Watanabe Discusses Bush Visit on Talk Show

OW1101172392 Tokyo TBS Television Network in Japanese 1316 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Excerpts of interview with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe by freelance newscaster Isao Fukutome and TBS newscaster Takae Mikumo, with commentator Nobuhiko Shima as special guest questioner; in a TBS studio in Tokyo; from the news variety program "Broadcaster"—entitled "Bush Collapses; the Stormy Agonies of Japan and the United States—Live Appearance by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe!"—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted]

[Fukutome] You understand English, do you not?

[Watanabe, laughing] Only a little.

[Fukutome] You drank champagne....

[Watanabe] I drank after I felt relieved. It was during the first two minutes that I was shocked.

[Fukutome] It must have been a great shock.

[Watanabe] I was sitting with another person directly opposite him [President Bush]. My wife was about here and suddenly stood up, shouting, "The President!" I turned to her, puzzled and not knowing what was happening. Then I saw the president leaning toward Mr. Miyazawa. So, I was shocked at that time. He fell down to the floor but I could not see well because he was on the other side. I was wondering what was going to happen. Then I saw Mrs. Bush standing and just looking on. Within two minutes the First Lady stood up and smiled at us with this gesture [waving his hand]. So, I thought there was nothing to worry about. I knew that two minutes later—I would say in about one and a half minutes.

[Fukutome] But Mrs. Barbara Bush was so courageous, was she not?

[Watanabe] I agree she was so courageous. I bet that ordinary wives would have made a great fuss. [laughter] She did not make a fuss at all.

[Fukutome] Was that right! Now, I want to ask you about the main point. This is as Mr. Iacocca said in the film, but Mr. Miyazawa himself evaluates his talks with Mr. Bush as an 80 percent success. The American media... please show the chart.

[Shima] [showing a chart indicating how U.S. newspapers scored the Bush visit] Although President Bush issued a statement today stating that his visit to Japan was a success, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL wrote that the trip was a failure. THE NEW YORK TIMES said the visit to Japan was a failure, and THE WASHINGTON POST said the trip was awkward and a failure in view of its purpose.

[Mikumo] How stern!

[Fukutome] These have been the reactions. Foreign Minister Watanabe, how do you appraise the latest summit talks?

[Watanabe] I do not know what criteria or which yardstick they are using to say that the talks were a success or a failure. If they claim that they were a failure because as many goods were not sold in Japan as expected, then the Japanese side criticizes that we made too many concessions. We did not make concessions. Did Japan succeed then?

[Fukutome, interrupting] What raises concern is....

[Watanabe, interrupting] The question is what is the criteria applied in saying whether the talks were a success or a failure. We are saying from a wide perspective that it was a success.

[Fukutome] We feel that there was foreign pressure and, after it intensified, Japan made concessions and was made to buy cars in which we do not want to ride. Americans, on the other hand, feel that President Bush went to fawn upon Japan or beg for something. This is how opinion here and in America has perceived the trip.

[Watanabe] In the first place, the president said clearly that he did not come to beg for something, but he came to Japan to create an open market.

[Shima] The problem is that Americans say that they are asking for the opening of the market, contending that their products are good. Mr. Miyazawa, on the other hand, proposes that we demonstrate our friendship to Americans and buy their goods. Mr. Watanabe, in your view, which do you think is correct? In other words, they say that our market is closed, but our side says that, even if we wanted to buy, there is nothing worth buying; therefore, why not do a favor and buy....

[Watanabe, interrupting] Both sides stand to reason. After hearing them point it out, we certainly find there are rules that do not matter whatever the situation. We made concessions freely concerning the criteria certification issue—let us take this issue as an example. That thing affixed in front of the muffler—what do you call it?

[Shima] The exhaust?

[Watanabe] Yes, the exhaust. A so-called catalytic converter is put in there. American catalytic converters are imperfect. If we should approve American catalytic converters.... Japan has the strictest exhaust control regulations in the world. We said that this is absolutely unacceptable. They then said that they will enact the same law that Japan has sometime in the 1990's, saying that they will conform their standards to Japanese standards. This means the problem was resolved; therefore, it turned out to be good. So there are areas in which we both took good points from each other. But as long as American cars are not sold, it cannot be helped even if we are asked to buy, buy, buy. Japan imports hundreds of thousands of European cars. We import 30,000 American cars, but 15,000 of them are American cars produced by Honda. American cars are not sold in Europe, either.

[Shima] The reason why it is said that the talks were not necessarily a success is because, as Mr. Watanabe pointed out, Japan and the United States did not issue a big message to the world....

[Watanabe, interrupting] A message was issued....

[Shima, interrupting] Nevertheless, only the car issue was actually made the central subject. On top of that, the Japanese think that they are being made to buy poor-quality goods, while Americans feel that the president went to Japan to beg for things. It is an indelible impression that these feelings were left behind.

[Watanabe] We were not made to buy. Conditions are attached. Japanese industries said they will buy this many under such and such conditions. Toyota, for example, voluntarily proposes to buy 5,000 cars, and Nissan says it will buy 3,000 units. Mazda set the number at 4,000. The industry said that it will do this favor in buying this many cars if Americans do such and such things.

[Fukutome] Since the car issue was brought up, Mr. Foreign Minister, would you please take a look at this? [Mikumo holds a chart showing how many American and other foreign cars were sold in Japan] A comparison of American cars sold in Japan shows that GM, Ford, and Chrysler—the top three—have increased sales only this many between 1975 and 1991.

[Shima, giggling] Ford increased from 8,100 to 2,600.

[Fukutome] Please look at BMW and Mercedes Benz. Benz increased from 2,725 to 34,187. This was on the Japanese market.

[Watanabe] Indeed.

[Fukutome, sarcastically] It all shows how good they are.

[Watanabe, laughing] Indeed. BMW increased 20-fold.

[Fukutome] This time Japan ended up promising to buy 20,000. Taking a look at this result, since this is the situation in 15 years, in case we cannot buy, there will be more foreign pressure. This is the result left behind. Don't you agree?

[Watanabe] It all depends on how you say it. [laughter]

[Fukutome] The video showed that only four out of 1,236 cars were American-made among those that passed through Ginza's [name of town in video] intersection during a 60-minute period.

[Watanabe] Yes, Americans would not feel good if they watched this. They would question why there is such a small number of U.S. automobiles on Japanese streets, while there are so many Japanese cars everywhere in the United States.

[Fukutomi] I cannot help feeling that I want to send the video tape to Mr. Iacocca.

[Shima] In describing the situation, the U.S. side claims it is because the Japanese market is closed. This is what we cannot understand.

[Fukutome] Please take a look at this. [Fukutome shows a board indicating brands of cars owned by cabinet members] This shows what kinds of cars cabinet members drive.

[Shima] Mr. Miyazawa has a Mercedes Benz. Health and Welfare Minister Yamashita has a Cadillac, and is the only person in the cabinet who has an American car. All other ministers drive either Japanese or German cars.

[Fukutome] Foreign Minister Watanabe's cars are introduced down here. A Mercedes-Benz, a Toyota Soarer.... You also have a Subaru 360 and a Honda Today!

[Watanabe] They are for my personal use.

[Fukutome] Do you like driving minicars like those?

[Watanabe] I do, I do.

[Fukutome] What a surprise.... Then, what was your impression of the American limousine which you took a ride in with President Bush right after he arrived in Tokyo?

[Watanabe] The limousine was big and long. The president and I sat face to face in the car, and the first lady, my wife, and the chief of protocol were also there. I do not have much to say about how comfortable the ride was—it was just like an every-day ride.

[Fukutome] So, you and the president talked about China during the ride, didn't you?

[Watanabe] Yes, I visited China from 3 to 6 January and met Chinese leaders. I am not going to tell you in detail what we said, but we discussed U.S.-Chinese relations a lot. I thought I should contribute to U.S. and Chinese efforts to improve bilateral ties.

[Fukutome] You mean that you have conveyed to the president some messages from China.

[Watanabe] I conveyed to him some requests from the Chinese side.

[Fukutome] Another question on your Beijing visit. Did you discuss the Chinese invitation for the emperor's visit to China?

[Watanabe] Yes, the Chinese side has given the invitation six times, and it was also discussed during my trip. We cannot postpone the answer forever. We will be marking the 20th anniversary of the normalization of Japanese-Chinese relations this year. Since the Chinese side wishes to take this opportunity to perpetuate favorable bilateral ties and bury the past between the two nations, I think that it is a good idea to schedule the imperial visit some time this year. Of course, the only thing I could say was that we would seriously think about it because I have no authority to determine the emperor's schedule.

[Fukutome] There is speculation that the imperial visit is likely to be scheduled around October.

[Watanabe] It cannot be arranged for tomorrow, and it should not conflict with China's official schedule. The schedule will be finalized after taking everything into account.

[Fukutome] But you still think that this year is the best opportunity for the imperial trip, don't you?

[Watanabe] The 20th anniversary should be a turning-point.

[Fukutome] Mr. Watanabe, in connection with President Bush's recent trip to China [as heard], you are known as an authority of Asian affairs, including the Cambodian issue. It seems that there is an allotment of work between you and Mr. Miyazawa—for instance he takes charge of U.S. relations and you take care of Asian affairs. What is your comment on that?

[Watanabe, laughing] That may be a good idea. He will do much better dealing with English-speaking countries, and I will just take care of the rest. [laughter]

[Shima] In connection with this, I think that Mr. Miyazawa was supposed to talk more about something like global leadership rather than the auto issue since the Japanese-U.S. summit talks were held right after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

[Watanabe] At the summit talks, the two leaders did not spend all the time talking about automobiles.

[Shima] But it is said that the auto issue was the main topic at the talks.

[Watanabe, in disgust] No way. I cannnot show you, but it is on the official record of the talks. It actually took a long time at the working-level, as you have heard about a meeting between Japanese and U.S. business leaders as well as negotiations between the private sector and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. However, the summit talks put more emphasis on such issues as the former Soviet Union in connection with the northern territorial issue, the GATT Uruguay Round, arms control, and the treatment of weapons of mass destruction. But they were not made public.

[Shima] However, it did not come to the public's attention at all. This is because there were visible presentations on results of the auto negotiations, but any other issues were left behind closed doors. For example, Japan may announce its resolve to support U.S. efforts for nuclear control by ruling out aid to countries that continue developing nuclear arms. Regarding conserving global ecology, Japan may offer facilities to establish a new UN organization to work on the issue. Japan may buy U.S.-grown grain and send it to the former Soviet Union as food aid.

[Watanabe] We cannot open everything to the public. We did exchange information on the former Soviet Union. We asked for the United State's opinion on the future development of the situation, and we informed them of our view; however, we are not supposed to discuss everything we talked about concerning the Soviet Union. This is why our announcement looked relatively abstract.

[Shima] Yet, we expected some eye-catching statements for the world concerning Japan-U.S. relations. Public attention was focused on the auto issue because it was the only topic about which negotiation results were made public.

[Watanabe] In the first place, there was an opinion on the U.S. side that the business mission was not supposed to accompany the president for the Japan visit this time. And now they are openly saying that the presidential visit would have been much better without the mission. What they got from the trip may be small potatoes, and there may still be big problems. The number of U.S. automobiles, which we discussed during the business talks, is still less than 5 percent of those we export to the United States. This is actually a small issue in comparison with Japanese-U.S. relations overall; however, it was overemphasized as a symbolic problem.

[Fukutome] The United States is losing its influence in Europe, and Japan will lean more toward East Asia as relations with the United States become estranged as the 21st century draws near. I feel that when the United States seeks some role in Asia in the future, Japanese-U.S. frictions will intensify. What is your comment on this point?

[Watanabe] I do not think there will be further friction, and we must strive to see that there is no friction. If U.S.-Japan relations become sour, nothing good will come of it. I want the Japanese people to know that Japan cannot prosper alone. The world economy is interlinked. There is no way for the Japanese economy to prosper if the U.S. economy crumbles. After all, we are in the same boat. It is often said that if the United States sneezes, Japan will catch a cold. Nowadays, both the United States and Asia will be greatly affected by a slump in the Japanese economy. Japan has grown up to that extent. Another point I want to emphasize is that the Japanese people have to think about the issue from their standpoint.

In the United States, 70,000 workers are laid off [time frame not specified]. Even GM, which has 21 plants, is to be closed down. Chrysler faces managerial hardships. If Toyota should lose 70,000 workers, it would be the same as Toyota's main office going out of existence. There are some 300,000 workers, including related industries. If they were laid off, it would affect even Nissan. If this happens.... [changing thought] Television-manufacturing companies have gone out of existence in the United States. There is only one left now. All television sets are produced in Japan, Korea, and Europe. Television sets are no longer produced in the United States. Motorcycle companies have also gone out of existence.

[Shima] Therefore....

[Watanabe, interrupting] Should the last symbolic bastion, the car, go out of existence, it would be a really serious problem. Therefore, if we take this sense of crisis into consideration, we must ask them to stick it out and propose that we help while they struggle. This kind of friendly relationship is only natural.

[Shima] It is good that we have these friendly relations. We say that we will share weal and woe—take the rice issue, for instance. Mr. Watanabe is saying that it will be all right to make a decision. If Japan says that, it will look like Japan and the United States are working together. Will it not?

[Watanabe] Regarding the rice and other issues, every country says what it likes about the Dunkel paper. Our side has many weaknesses, too.

[Shima] That is why I say....

[Watanabe, interrupting] Therefore, it is impossible for any country to open up in one stroke. So we propose that we resolve problems through a soft landing. One hundred percent opening is unnecessary....

[Shima, interrupting] Please let us have a commercial.

[Fukutome] Next, we want to ask about the issue of the real economic growth rate of 3.5 percent.

[Fukutome] Well, I think I should refrain from asking you this kind of question, but Mr. Kanemaru has assumed the post of LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] vice president. What does this mean at this juncture?

[Watanabe] Well, from the beginning my opinion was that he had better assume that post. I rather recommended him to do so. Mr. Kanemaru is the one who made the Miyazawa cabinet, anyway. He nominated him, not me. [laughter] So, he is responsible. Undoubtedly this is an important juncture now. But because this is the situation and the trend of the times, I asked him to do a favor.

[Fukutome] But, taking into consideration the questions that turned up later such as the Kyowa scandal and the Tokyo Sagawa Express scandal, the LDP ought to be firm now. So, this developed out of these reasons?

[Watanabe] No, it is not a development on the level of individual cases. The present situation is difficult to address for whomever takes the helm. If the cabinet changes hands as many as three to six times, Japan will be reduced to the level of a certain country. I feel sorry I cannot name it because I am the foreign minister. The foreign minister will not be able to keep his head up. When he attends a summit meeting, representing the country, he will be made light of, of course. If a different person comes to each meeting, then....

[Shima] Well, the Miyazawa administration has been regarded as a full-fledged cabinet. But it failed to have the Peacekeeping Operation [PKO] bill adopted and to introduce the so-called international contribution tax. And now, while Mr. Bush is in Japan, Mr. Kanemaru assumed the post of vice president to help stabilize the government. I feel that this sort of thing need not be said while Mr. Bush is here. At the same time....

[Watanabe, interrupting] Well, commentators have to say various things for a living. [laughter] I do not mind whatever they say. But, since it was the start of the new year, it was possible to get his reply.

[Fukutome] What concerns us is that, despite the fact that the Budget Committee's approval is necessary to achieve the so-called real economic growth rate of 3.5 percent, the troublesome Kyowa and Tokyo Sagawa scandals came to the fore all at once before that. In this case, we are afraid that the government will be in a fix and be unable to carry out and put into practice even its commitments to the United States....

[Watanbe] I do not know how the issues will develop. But if the Diet wants to inquire into the true aspects, it will be good to go ahead and do so. But it is unreasonable to prevent the national budget from being passed, linking it to those issues, or barring the government from honoring its international pledges. This will be preposterous. There are things that need to be done in a hurry and others that can be taken care of without haste. A budget is a budget. If they want to shed light on misdeeds, they can set up a special committee or whatever and do so. If they mix up everything, it will have far-reaching influence—not only on the domestic scene, but also on the world....

[Shima, interrupting] Mr. Foreign Minister, if Mr. Kanemaru is vice president, the Diet Policy Committee chairman will be reshuffled next. The chairmanship of the Diet Steering Committee also goes to the Takeshita faction.

[Watanabe] Yes.

[Shima] The Takeshita faction also holds many key cabinet posts. Somehow it seems that the Takeshita faction, Keisei-kai, is entrusted with party affairs and steering the Diet. Even though the Miyazawa administration is said to be a full-fledged government, don't you think that the Miyazawa administration is very weak in terms of managing the nation? In a sense, it is likened to the Kaifu cabinet. Don't you have that impression?

[Watanabe] Well, assuming that I became prime minister and party president, and inasmuch as the Diet is stabilized by numbers, things do not proceed well without the cooperation of the group, which is greater in number. Therefore, in that sense, the Takeshita faction, which is the largest faction, nominated Mr. Miyazawa as president and I fought in the election. But I, who lost the election, am rendering cooperation. Therefore, it will be a problem if the faction, which backed up Mr. Miyazawa, refuses to cooperate. So, we want to unite as one body and carry out tasks. In that resepct, I think it was very good.

[Fukutome] We now understand, Foreign Minister Watanabe, that you strongly support Mr. Miyazawa this time. As you must have read in today's papers, the issue of Korean comfort women who served in the war has turned up. Mr. Miyazawa has been saying that they were put to service by the private sector. But this is not true and the fact is that the military was involved. This is becoming a big political issue. Now, when Mr. Miyazawa visits South Korea on 16 January, I feel that it will become a considerably bigger issue and rebound on our domestic affairs.

[Watanabe] Well, even though this is not an issue for which Mr. Miyazawa should be held responsible, we feel very painful both in our hearts and minds to find out that this sort of infamous subject has turned up. Although there is no clear evidence yet—it happened more than 50 years ago—I think I cannot help but acknowledge there was some sort of involvement.

[Shima] It was reported today that this was found in an official government document. In that case, will Mr. Miyazawa make a comment on it when he visits Seoul? Will he be apologizing?

[Watanabe] I do not know if there will be something like that.

[Shima] Has it been decided already how it will be worded?

[Watanabe] No, it has not been decided yet.

[Fukutome] After hearing all this, I think that the rice issue is the last question I must by all means ask you about.

[Shima] That is right.

[Fukutome] Talking straight, when will tariffication be introduced?

[Watanabe] It has not been determined that tariffication will be introduced. In the recent joint statement.... [changing thought] The so-called Dunkel paper was put out, advocating tariffication without exception. Japan has been consistently rejecting tariffication; however, we have to see how others react. Listening to today's news, the EC refused to cut back its subsidies. I do not know if it accepts tariffication or not, but it rejected drastic reductions of its subsidies. We do not know what the United States will say either. We will all get together on 13 January. At that meeting, we want to push ahead one by one at a time. Nobody wants to ruin the Uruguay Round. Our understanding is that the Dunkel plan is not the final text but an important step that helps establish the momentum to bring the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion. This is what the joint statement said.

[Fukutome] Mr. Watanabe, you made small affirmative remarks on tariffication, and Mr. Miyazawa said that he very highly rates Mr. Watanabe's remarks as a basis for discussion. Messrs. Kanemaru and Hata also suggested the same thing. In that case....

[Watanabe, interrupting] You are making an arbitrary interpretation. [laughter] I did not call for tariffication. I only said this is what partial opening amounted to and what tariffication means, and we had better be calm in deciding which will be our gain or loss after making a careful study. That is all.

[Shima] You mean to say that Japan should take a step further to help bring the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion? For the sake of the world....

[Watanabe, interupting] If Japan continues to insist on doing nothing, it will become the orphan of the world.

[Fukutome] That is true.

[Shima] Following others or getting ahead of others—which do you think is better?

[Watanabe] It boils down to the question of prospects, after all.

[Shima] You want to get ahead of others, and, at the same time, you want to....

[Fukutome] Our time has run out. Finally. Foreign Minister Watanabe, when you assumed the post of foreign minister—excuse me for being rude.... [changing thought] Today we had expected that you would make a slip of the tongue somewhere.... [laughter]

[Mikumo] Remarks on a large scale.

[Fukutome] Listening to your utterances today, you have shown no unguarded moment at all. [laughter]

[Shima] We could not hear the Mitchi [for Michio] tune.

[Watanabe, laughing] This is the way I am all the time. [laughter] Maybe I have just ceased to be rough in my speech for a little bit. [laughter]

[Mikumo] I am afraid you are being very careful.

[Fukutome] Maybe you are excessively strained.

[Watanabe] Am I not like this all the time?

[Fukutome] Is that right? Somehow we have the hunch that we will be hearing people call you Prime Minister Watanabe before the end of the year.

[Watanabe] That is not it. Since we must strive to make Japan more prosperous in any event, I will be faithful to my duty and I will do my level best.

[Fukutome] Stick it out, please. Thank you very much.

[Watanabe] Thank you.

[Shima] We will be showing a sumo program after this. If you like it, please stay with us. [laughter]

[Watanabe] I have to get up early tomorrow morning. [laughter] I thank you for your invitation but I must leave. I like sumo very much, though.

[Fukutome] Thank you very much.

[Mikumo] Thank you very much.

NHK Roundtable Discussion on U.S. Relations

OW1201052292 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 12 Jan 92

[NHK "Roundtable Discussion on Political Issues" with moderator Korehito Obama, NHK editorial member, on the theme: "Bush's Visit to Japan and Future Japan-U.S. Relations," recorded on 11 January; participants are Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe; Yutaka Kume, chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association and president of Nissan Motor Company; Heizo Takenaka, Keio University Associate Professor; and Akihoko Tanaka, Tokyo University Associate Professor—place not given]

[Excerpts] [Obama] Good morning. U.S. President Bush's visit to Japan is over. In the Tokyo Declaration, Japan and the United States declared loudly that they would cooperate with each other in setting up a new world order and promoting the world economy—now that the cold war has ended.

At the same time, Japan pledged to expand its imports from the United States, citing specific numbers, in order to resolve Japan-U.S. trade frictions. With the presidential election forthcoming in the United States this year, Japan is seen to be under a lot of pressure to carry out this pledge.

Today, we have Foreign Minister Watanabe on this program. We would like the participants to talk primarily about Japan-U.S. relations in the future. I would like to begin by asking for an evaluation of President Bush's visit to Japan—What are your impressions of it? First, what is your comment, Mr. Kume, chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association and president of Nissan Motor Company.

[Kume] Well, I will give you my impression in brief rather than an evaluation. As you are aware, there have been great changes in the world order. The Soviet Union has collapsed, and new regional blocs are being formed—with the EC moving toward integration, and negotiations on the North American trade agreement going on. Hence, I think Mr. Bush's visit to Japan at this time was timely.

But, to our regret, I feel most of the discussions were devoted to only immediate trade issues, particularly auto issues; not that these are not important issues. I wish more time could have been devoted to discussions from macroeconomic and long-term perspectives. That is my impression.

[Obama] What is your comment, Professor Takenaka of Keio University?

[Takenaka] On Mr. Bush's visit to Japan, Japan's mass media reports in general have given a degree of approval to it despite some problems raised, noting that the concessions were unavoidable under the given political conditions. But on the other hand, the U.S. mass media's commentaries in the past few days have been very critical. THE NEW YORK TIMES clearly called it a failure. The newspaper used the words, "he lost."

I myself feel I have to side with the U.S. mass media's position in the evaluation. Above all, the Japan-U.S. summit came amidst very high expectations. There had been global expectations. At present, many socialist nations are moving toward a market economy. I think there had been expectations that Japan and the United States would take the summit as an opportunity to take initiatives toward promoting world economic growth and the people's welfare. [passage omitted]

[Obama] What is your view, Professor Tanaka of Tokyo University?

[Tanaka] My impression is that the Japan-U.S. summit turned out better than expected. The Japan-U.S. summit had originally been scheduled for late November, but had to be put off. However, as a result of its being put off, the nature of and conditions for the summit considerably changed. Had it been in late November, even though there were some domestic issues in Japan at that time, the summit would have been one for discussions of long-range and wide- scope terms, as Professor Takenaka said earlier. But since that time, there have been changes in circumstances in the United States—of course, also in Japan. The two countries have since found themselves in different positions. Consequently, I had come to think that the summit would be considered successful if damage from this situation could be minimized. I think the summit was not fruitful as far as the Bush government was concerned. It was so—so as far as the Miyazawa government was concerned. That is how I feel. I will have more to say on individual matters later on.

[Obama] Then, what is your view, Foreign Minister Watanabe?

[Watanabe] The view on whether it was a success or not should be based on the substance of it. I think it was a success. Professor Takenaka spoke about the top leaders of the two countries getting together at a time when the world is changing dramatically. He said they should have had frank exchanges of views on the situation. Well, they did that. They talked about the question of the Soviet Union, the world situation, the northern territories issue, Middle Eastern issues, and so forth. They did dwell on them—it is more a matter of whether the newspapers reported on these points. They talked about almost all the global issues.

However, newspapers played up only such issues as the auto issues. It is not my impression that big issues were put aside in the talks. The pattern in the past was that when a new cabinet was formed, the new prime minister would fly to the United States and make a round of courtesy calls [ohyakudo-mairi]. This time, when the world is changing dramatically, the president representing the United States himself, took the trouble to visit Japan for talks. And there was the Tokyo Declaration. There remain various issues. But from the standpoint of Japan, I think I can say the summit was very successful.

[Obama] Now, I would like you to talk about actual issues. First of all, how do you assess the Tokyo Declaration and the Action Plan? Would you like to go first, Mr. Takenaka?

[Takenaka] The Tokyo Declaration is advocating global partnership. It states that Japan and the United States will fulfill special responsibilities. [passage omitted on significance of Tokyo Declaration and Action Plan]

[Obama] You may not be happy since we started the discussion with the auto issue, Mr. Minister. But what do you think of Mr. Takenaka's comment. He pointed out that U.S. demands are against the market principle, and we cannot expect that the United States will actually be able to increase its employment rate.

[Watanabe] Looking from an overall viewpoint, I think that the automobile issue is not a big problem. The Tokyo Declaration also talks about what we should do in the future for the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. We are trying to review the security system. The declaration proudly declares that we will work together on various issues for which we share a sense of common value—such as democracy, freedom, market principles, and respect of human rights. Various countries will emerge in the future. The declaration also talks about measures to deal with these countries. Moreover, we made mutual efforts regarding maintenance of the GATT system. We also discussed the success of the Uruguay Round, and are reviewing, or shall I say, strengthening the functions of the United Nations. The Soviet Union has disappeared; however, eruption of regional conflict is still possible. Under such circumstances we exchanged our views as to how we can reactivate the United Nations. We talked about weapons of mass destruction, nonproliferation of mass destruction weapons, and arms control. Moreover, under discussion were aid to developing countries and preservation of the earth's environment, measures to deal with issues regarding refugees and an aging society, and eradication of drug trafficking. We discussed various topics, and issued the abstract and compacted declaration. However, I feel that the fact that leaders of both countries share the same views on these international issues is of great significance.

[Obama] What do you think, Mr. Tanaka?

[Tanaka] Well, as the minister has just explained, the Tokyo Declaration and Action Plan are epoch-making documents if we look at them coolly. [passage omitted on his view of the Tokyo Declaration and Action Plan] Looking from the outside, we feel that the Japanese Government is not serious about making the Uruguay Round successful. It seems that the government is hampering the efforts for success.

[Obama] Go ahead, Minister.

[Watanabe] I cannot say anything if you make a partial comment like that. The only thing I can say is to wait and see what we will do. Since we are still negotiating, and because of reasons regarding the domestic situation, I cannot completely disclose our plans. Japan is a nation which will suffer most if success in the Uruguay Round cannot be achieved. We will exert efforts to assure that we will ultimately achieve success. However, many American business leaders accompanied the President and were very vocal. I think it was a deniable fact that they [words indistinct], in a way. Undoubtedly some of the things they said were unreasonable. The papers reported their complaints. However, I think the overall claim of the U.S. Government was reasonable.

[Obama] I would like to address this question to Mr. Kume. The original purpose of the Uruguay Round was to seek free trade. But as far as the Action Plan is concerned, the amount of auto parts to be purchased is stated in the plan. Is this not a direction toward controlled trade? What do you think of this?

[Kume] Each company voluntarily and independently announced their figures; the government did not force us to come up with them. However, there is a danger that the figures may lead us to controlled trade unless we have clear and mutual understandings. My understanding is that this time the companies voluntarily announced the figures. Regarding what you gentlemen have said so far, I did not receive enough information, and the media took up only the auto issue. Therefore, I...as far as I understand from reading the Tokyo Declaration and Action plan, I feel they are dealing with various issues and are indeed well written. However, speaking only from the viewpoint of the Action Plan, only Japanese business circles made unilateral offers and the other side has made no action—I would like to talk about this later. We regret it. We will do our best as regards purchasing auto parts. However, purchase of finished cars is a matter between the American manufacturers who produce them and Japanese consumers. Discussions without consumers are meaningless.

[Obama] Professor Takenaka, please.

[Takenaka] Foreign Minister Tanaka spoke highly of the significance of the Tokyo Declaration. As I said earlier, I feel the same way. As far as the Tokyo Declaration is concerned, we have the impression that one power called the United States and another power called Japan are speaking about global issues. But if we turn our eyes to the Action Plan, this is a very detailed write-up of an agreement filled with minor power consciouness. [passage omitted]

As I said earlier, speaking from the standpoint of economic management I think what should have been discussed at the summit was a joint declaration in quest of world economic growth. It should bave been a macroeconomic declaration that would have covered all the things Japan and the United States should do. I would like to ask Foreign Minister Watanabe what was talked about in this context at the talks, and I would like to ask him about his policy in that regard.

[Obama] Let us ask him that question, then.

[Watanabe] If someone asks me what contributions Japan can best make to the world immediately, I would say to keep up—to continue—its economic growth and prosperity. That is what I think. Even the United States wants this. The United States appreciated when we lowered interest rates late last year. In the course of discussions, there was talk about the desirability of putting on paper Japan's commitment to maintain 3.5 percent growth, but that is not something that should be put on paper.

Japan itself does not want its growth to slump to 2 percent or to lower rates as seen in the OECD. There is simply no need to talk about it. Whatever efforts it may take, we will have the new year's budget passed and the financial investment plans passed, and will keep up the expected growth. That is what we told them.

On world trade issues, we have already made requests to the United States, calling on it to further reduce its financial deficits. We are mutual friends, and we must say things that need to be said. We have asked the country to increase savings, production efficiency, and so forth; they are aware of these problems too.

But we need to view the present condition of the United States. Besides, however anyone may insist otherwise, there is no country which does not care about elections. To make matters worse, the unemployment rate is said to have increased by several more percentage points. The largest industry representing the United States is the auto industry, but General Motors announced layoffs of 75,000 people and the closure of 21 plants over the next few years. That is no usual situation.

The man from Nissan is here today. Suppose Nissan decides to close 20 of its plants and lay off 75,000 people. That is similar to the whole company, including its related firms, disappearing altogether. Japan cannot pretend to know nothing about the reality in the United States. One would be able to understand the situation easier if the United States could clearly say what it wants—that is, if the United States could frankly complain about Japan's way of exporting products. But the United States cannot complain about this openly.

That being the case—in other words, with the ideal and the real conflicting—what eventually happened is that the United States called on Japan to buy its products. In turn, the Japanese industry responds that it cannot buy things which it does not need. It is a fact that there is a gap in this regard. After all, ideals alone are not enough to live on in this world.

[Obama] Then let us talk more about the question of reality. Please, go ahead Professor Tanaka.

[Tanaka] To speak about the ideal and the real, if we take at a look at the auto trade between Japan and the United States, so-called voluntary restraint was instituted in the early 1980's. Even though Mr. Kume may insist it was a voluntary action, it was actually based on outside control. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister, you responded to the president realistically this time. Do you believe that if our government does not somehow help the Bush Government, then full-fledged trade protectionsm will really take place in the United States?.

[Watanabe] I don't know whether the expression "to help the Bush Government" is appropriate for a foreign minister to use. But the existing Republican Party government is a free trader. At present, the Democratic Party has a strong tint of trade protectionism. I have not looked into who is running in the election or what election pledges they have made, so really I cannot talk about them. But if we refer to bills presented to Congress so far and consider other conditions, the trend mentioned by you, Professor, is strong.

As such, regardless of which government comes in, it is probable that for the time being or during the transitional period, there will arise problems, which may be contradictory in nature. They may arise in the course of bringing the economy to a soft landing for complete free trade.

Simply put, I think Mr. Bush's way of thinking is sound and, hence, is good for Japan. Hence, I think it will be to the benefit of Japan if the Bush government is aided—because of the results. That is why we said we would provide what cooperation we can.

[Obama] What is your comment in that regard, Mr. Kume?

[Kume] We think that to obligate local procurement of auto parts is in violation of the GATT's rules. But regardless of that question, we do want to raise the local part contents of automobiles. To begin with, the reason why we established plants overseas was because we felt sorry about exporting only finished cars. We wanted to do our business in a way that would contribute to the economy of local areas. The only way to do that was to set up local plants. And if local production meant only assembling and using designs provided by us, then it would really amount to labor contracting. As such, our position is to use as many local parts as possible and to do research and development work at the local plants. Hence, it is necessary for us to raise the local content as much as possible, in order to maintain a free economy and to be better received by local areas. This is something we want to do voluntarily.

Someone referred to the so-called voluntary restraint on imports that was put into effect in 1981. That and this issue are different matters. That is how we feel about auto parts.

On the other hand, I am in complete agreement with what the foreign minister said earlier. In order to be able to prevent trade protectionism from taking place, I think it is necessary that Japan or countries in Asia create rich and vital markets and offer them to the whole world. We have to work toward that. We cannot do that if the economy of Japan is in a bad state. Japan has to maintain or improve its economic conditions, to be able to carry out its given roles. That is what I think.

[Obama] Earlier, speaking about the sale of U.S.-made cars in Japan, Mr. Kume foresaw problems with this, pointing out that a sale is business done between consumers and makers. He also talked about various problems in procuring $19 billion worth of auto parts. But if the commitment is not fulfilled, eventually pressures on the Japanese Government will mount. That will also work as a minus factor on the Bush government. Did you, Mr. Kume, accept this commitment from the position of supporting President Bush's reelection as referred to by Professor Tanaka?

[Kume] I do not think I am doing it for Mr. Bush. Rather I think we should do this from the perspective of maintaining Japan-U.S. relations and free trade. After all, cooperation is possible only on the condition that there will be mutual efforts to realize it. Cooperation by one side's unilateral efforts is not possible, and cannot even be called cooperation. If the matter comes to selling their cars in Japan, they will have to be sincere in making cars that can be liked by customers. The business is possible only when the customers say the products are good. It does not make sense if cars must be sold—regardless of reasons, somehow, by all means.

[Obama] Professor Takenaka, please.

[Takenaka] Words like realistic choices, political concessions, mature persons' thinking, and so forth have been heard. I think these words have been used to express actual situations. I think that we have to learn more from the lessons of the economic policies of the 1970's and 1980's. [passage omitted]

To speak about the economy of the United States, its problem is that the country consumed in excess of its economic capabilities in the 1980's. The country is now given a very difficult choice. Unless it reduces its living standards by a certain degree, it cannot make a new start. Socialist nations are faced with similar situations. They are in need of a shock cure.

I think the responsibilities of Japan, as the No. 2 industrial nation, are to straighten out its own policies, and to say to the United States things that should be said—to make rather strong requests on what has been pointed out today. I think that will become a basis for the development of Japan-U.S. relations from a long-term perspective.

[Obama] What do you think of his comment?

[Watanabe, laughing] Of course, we are saying that. But, if you ask if Japan is carrying out things just as it promised at that time [changes thought], of course, we have violated many agricultural product and GATT standards. Japan finds it impossible to fulfill all of them. So, as a matter of fact, Japan is not in a position to loudly oppose this. Then, we may say it is no good that Japan is protecting agricultural products and that the entire market should be freed. In theory, some people may say that productivity will improve and the consumer will be able to eat less expensive food if the government does not protect agriculture. Well, this is correct in theory. Although it is true in theory, in reality there are problems that do not necessarily go that way. Therefore, we are suggesting that we compromise somewhere and move forward toward the ideal.

I said to Mrs. Hills at the recent Uruguay round: I heard that you were an honor student and scored 100 points on every test. You cannot get a full score at the Uruguay round. You must be satisfied with a passing grade. We have to settle the issues through compromises by all parties. However, we will move toward the direction you point to, although it may take us a little time to do so. We have to take realistic options. You just cannot say no to everything. It is impossible that everything should be either O or X. I said this to her. It is the same on this issue.

I understand very well what you are saying, Professor. Even though I know it, politicians are not good at adding things and dividing them by two. [laughter] It is also true that politicians cannot act and speak like scholars. This is true.

[Obama] Let me address this question to Mr. Kume. The American automobile industry has lost its competitive power. On the other hand, American managers have come to Japan and are telling Japan to fulfill its responsibilities rather than trying to reconstruct their industries. Frankly speaking, we, the people, feel this is strange. How can we understand this?

[Kume] Well, I think there are many ways of looking at it. But the American auto industry grew up in that big country. It is an industry which does not have experience in exporting its products. American auto companies went to Europe and produced cars and sold them locally. Therefore, we can say that their market research, in terms of export, is not adequate, or that they are hardly conducting market research. I think that this is the biggest reason that they cannot sell American cars in Japan. Among other things, they have been saying so far that Japan was a closed market. If that was true then why are European cars being sold in Japan? Nobody can explain it if Japan is a closed market. The biggest reason is the quality of their product. The next reason is that the manufacturers should make more efforts to sell their products in Japan. All Japanese makers went to the United States at their own expense and made steady efforts to find dealers.

[Watanabe] What you have said is correct. Frankly speaking, they need to try harder. Japanese automobile companies, no matter where they go—Mexico, Brazil or Europe—do not tell other countries to change their regulations to match that of Japan. Other countries have different regulations. Japanese companies study other countries' regulations, climate, customs and people's preferences. Is it not true that Japanese companies are doing that for each country? The major automakers or exporting industries are doing that at their research centers. It is unreasonable to demand Japan to accept American regulations.

[Obama] You are right. Although the number of cars is not included in the Action Plan, it says each Japanese company should voluntarily sell 48,000 American cars in total. The companies will not be able to sell them. What are they going to do with these cars? Is the government going to buy them?

[Watanabe] I think that number will be revised.

[Kume] Conditions are attached to that. We said that this number of American cars could be sold if some conditions were met. No one from the American automobile industry exported cars. Not only that but also it was true that the American automobile industry was a monopolistic industry until Japanese companies made inroads into the United States. I think that many elements have accumulated over a long period of years and have produced the problems they face. Japanese cars and European cars are being sold in the United States. I do not think that all American people support Detroit.

[Obama] Go ahead, please.

[Tanaka] What I am saying is really materialistic and it is related to what Mr. Takenaka mentioned in the beginning. I wonder if the determination of the number of cars that can be sold realistically and the amount of purchases will really help the Bush administration, which is believed to be a free trade advocate, or if it will help prevent the Bush administration itself from turning protectionist. Looking at the latest reaction of the U.S. media and other quarters, in the eyes of the U.S. media it looks like President Bush went to Japan for begging, rather than to impose managed trade, playing into the hands of the Big Three. From a realistic viewpoint, I even feel that this sort of result [begging] will be detrimental to the Bush administration, on the contrary.

[Watanabe] It is a dose of medicine [tonpuku], a dose of medicine. If that sort of thing is taken continually, there will be damage from the medicine. Therefore, I think it is like a dose of medicine, after all.

[Kume] Although I should refrain from speaking freely, I do not think that the Big Three are inciting Mr. Bush to speak about this sort of car issue. I say so because GM, Ford, and Chrysler have ties with the Japanese carmakers in one form or another and utilize Japanese carmakers. Ford, for instance, is making Mazda cars at its plants for reverse import into Japan. Therefore, I do not necessarily think that the so-called voices from the automobile industry come from the Big Three.

[Tanaka] In that case, I feel all the more that it is very unclear why the Bush administration has to pursue that kind of policy and why it has come to the conclusion that doing so will be beneficial to itself.

[Kume] Perhaps there are various voices from the congressional and other quarters, saying that the car industry is a very symbolic industry for the United States. Although it is said that cars account for some 70 percent of the trade imbalance between Japan and the United States, this way of saying things is like teaching fish how to swim [as heard; Kume laughs]. It is impossible to determine the share of an imbalance; the difference between the total of imports and that of exports is an imbalance. To talk of cars only, the imbalance in cars is equivalent, in monetary terms, to 75 percent of the total imbalance. I think that this is what they are saying. Should the imbalance amount to 75 percent in general terms, then cars would be to blame. But this is ridiculous. Therefore, I get the feeling that they found it easy to treat cars as an opening to attack the imbalance issue because the automobile industry is their symbolic industry. [Kume laughs]

[Watanabe] You must look at things from the other party's position. Japan has many television manufacturers—Toshiba, National, Sharp, Hitachi, and Mitsubishi. However, suppose that they have almost ceased to produce television sets with Japanese capital, suppose that Japan no longer produces bikes and sewing machines, and suppose Japan finds even its last industry, the car industry, on the brink of extinction. If you change your position like that, you know what is reasonable but you will be terror stricken and raise a commotion politically and socially. If, under these circumstances, you camouflage and talk about reasonableness only, it will not do. Suppose you say you do not mind if those that are destined to go out of existence went out of existence. It is free trade, after all. Those going to ruin can go to ruin, while those who are prosperous should prosper. If you say that, it will only create more confusion. So, we will uphold the banner of free trade and move ahead in that direction under that banner, but cooperation to a certain extent [words indistinct] as a temporary measure is inevitable. The fact is that Mr. Bush visited Japan not for the purpose of discussing cars. As I said earlier, we discussed global issues in various ways. We reached agreement on those issues, but this was not given wide publicity in the newspapers. I do not know if it would have been better if he had not brought them along with him.

[Obama] You mean the executives?

[Watanabe] Yes, the executives. Therefore, it is true that they served as a wet blanket. However, Japan and the United States confirmed their direction with each other in more important areas. We agreed to work in cooperation, bringing our [baseball] gloves [figuratively]. This is a significant gain. This is forgotten and trivial things are talked about. Suppose that hundreds of thousands of cars are imported, do you think that Japanese cars will be overturned? That will not happen. Even if imported American cars, which numbered 15,000, should increase to 50,000, the Japanese economy will not be affected. There are hundreds of thousands of European cars already here. This is a small issue in the Japanese economy. I mean to say we should not forget that we discussed bigger issues.

[Obama] Go ahead, please.

[Takenaka] I repeat this: The general remarks stated in the Tokyo Declaration, which the foreign minister mentioned just now, are very high sounding. I think that the agreements should be highly appraised. The Bush administration, I think, has been regarded as the most professional and trustworthy administration among the successive U.S. administrations. Many U.S. presidents come directly from state governorships or senatorships without holding the post of secretary of treasury or state. Mr. Bush is regarded as a very professional and reliable President. Now, I think it was a correct—should I call it mature?—judgment and a politically necessary judgment to conclude that, since Mr. Bush is so adamant on that stand, he must be quite in distress. Because of that, some important principles were stated in the macroeconomic declaration, and Japan proposes to give the United States some doses of medicine, to quote the foreign minister. In this connection, I would like to ask the foreign minister: What will come after giving a dose of medicine? What will happen to the U.S. economy after giving a dose of medicine? I ask this question because the meaning of tonpuku does not become clear unless policy cooperaion stipulated in the macroeconomic declaration has no prospect.

[Watanabe] Then, it develops into the question of whether it will be better not to give. As a matter of fact, if we say it would have been better to reject every demand put up by the Congress and industries there, would it be in Japan's interest? If things develop this way, then retaliation will escalate this time. Whether it is good or bad is a different story because it is related to the U.S. Congress. As a matter of fact, the U.S. Congress is advocating to help bring the Uruguay Round to a successful conclusion on the one hand and saying that they will not let go of Super 301 on the other. This is contradictory. Therefore, we should deal with it realistically. The Bush administration is striving to keep it by all means without lowering the banner of free economies. Therefore, I do not know if scholars and professors are aware of it [laughter] but it does not mean that some realistic measures will drive them to socialism, going far away from reason. [as heard; laughter] They are trying to keep liberalism and yet refrain from increasing protectionism. There may be some contradictory points but please ignore them. Well, I do not know if what Washington said was wrong.

[Tanaka] My impression is that the Bush administration made a total mistake in its tactics concerning the visit to Japan, begining in about December. It adopted the tactic of producing results with the car issue. [passage omitted] It is understandable that the Japanese Government tries to appease the Bush administration, which is caught in its own trap, because it cannot be helped. However, this is a little problematic. This boils down to the Bush administration's election campaign. The Bush administration, which is caught in its own trap, may find tonpuku today a necessity. However, taking future developments into consideration, when presidential election campaigns start in earnest, I wonder if it would be really beneficial to Japan to give the impression that it supports Republicans on the grounds that all Democratic candidates are protectionists.

[Watanabe] I did not say that we support only the Bush administration in connection with the argument about how the administration is. We do not know what administration will emerge. According to statistics, various protectionist bills introduced in the Congress are, in most cases, by Democrats. This is a fact, is it not? Therefore, we do not know which candidate will come from the Democratic Party and what he will advocate. So, I cannot criticize him. However, so far Mr. Bush has been saying he will not lower the banner of liberalism and, therefore, I am saying it will be good to help him. There are more Democrats in the Congress. If they introduce one bill after another and pass them, even if the veto right is exercised, if the situtation develops in which one-third of the seats cannot be secured, then the administration will end up being a slave to the Congress. The White House is sticking it out and, depending on a particular issue, exercising the veto right. When the veto right is exercised, at least, in the direction as we desire, we can help the President hold his position and gain strength. I do not think there is anything odd about that at all.

[Obama] Yes, go ahead, please. [passage omitted on Takenaka remarks]

[Obama] I would like to ask you if you think tonpuku will be effective or not, aside from the question of whether providing tonpuku is politically advisable or not, but, without being hung up on tonpuku, do you think that the U.S. economy will proceed in the direction of improvement within this year? [passage omitted on remarks by Takenaka and Kume]

[Watanabe] I want to speak here because it will be bad to reverse my word. Aside from the question of whether my citing medicine as an example was good or not, I meant to say that we accepted U.S. demands even though we thought that they were a little unreasonable. Another thing is that, after being told about them, we found we have some things—like the criteria certification system and something like that—that we do not think we need to stick to. In that the Japanese side voluntarily opens those areas which we think do not [as heard] matter, our side is also taking a medicine. I do not know if we are taking a powerful medicine or not, but there are questions in which we think it will be rather good to accept U.S. demands even if it may be painful, for the reason that the medicine will be good for Japan physically.

[Obama] Mr. Kume, how do you view the future of the U.S. economy?

[Kume] We are only watching it through the window of cars. However, I feel that it will recover a little in the latter half of 1992, but its recovery will be weak. [passage omitted]

[Obama] Mr. Foreign Minister, you may find it difficult to answer this question but do you think that the U.S. economy will take an upturn from around September.

[Watanabe] If it does not, it will be embarrassing. [laughter] A change of the President alone does not result in improving the economy all of a sudden. A shift in the free economic system will not help put the economy on the right track in a half year or a year. It takes a long time to do that. Therefore, although I think that impoving the U.S. economy boils down to the policy question, the thinking of each member of the nation is also important. Raising productivity and increasing savings will affect national finance, too. In national finance, arms should be reduced and other expenditures should be cut back. Administrative reform may also be necessary. So, people must show their understanding of those things, too. Now, tax revenues are said to be running short. Taxes on gas and other items are less than half of Japan's level. So, everyone should think about those things. But, if one starts talking about them, one will lose in the election. So, he does not talk about it. If this is the case, things will not go well, either. After all, the national economy is built by both the government and the people, is it not?

[Obama] Well, I would like to close the discussion after having brief comments from each of you on what are desirable Japanese-U.S. relations in the future. The cold war is over, and Japanese competitive power has gone ahead of that of the United States in some fields as the Japanese economy grows up. Taking the new situation into account, what are your opinions on a desirable Japanese-U.S. partnership? Mr. Tanaka, would you give your comments, please?

[Tanaka] [passage omitted] While Mr. Takenaka was critical of the economy-related portions of the Tokyo Declaration and the Action Plan, I think that political issues were appropriately handled in the statements. Frankly speaking, the Japanese diplomacy has a poor experience in these fields. To achieve long-standing and wide-ranging objectives mentioned in the statements, Japan should positively take part in these political fields. [passage omitted]

[Watanabe] The international community recently introduced a registry system for arms trade. That was determined at Japan's initiative, and the UN General Assembly adopted the motion by an overwhelming majority. This is an example of Japan's positive role in the world. It intends to maintain cooperative ties with the United States and to positively take part in dealing with such international problems as global environment, terrorism, narcotics, and refugees.

[Obama] Mr. Takenaka, please.

[Passage omitted on Takenaka remarks]

[Obama] Mr. Kume, please.

[Kume] I think that we should lay more emphasis on the two nations' national interests and the sense of value they have in common, rather than focusing on conflicting points to separate them. On that ground, each should think of what it has to do. I strongly felt at the meeting with the U.S. business mission how both of us have inadequate understanding of each other. The bilateral relations should be discussed not only at the government level, but also at every level between the two nations on every occasion. This is my sincere impression of the talks with U.S. business leaders.

[Obama] Foreign Minister, please.

[Watanabe] Your question was about Japanese-U.S. relations, right? After all, Japan will suffer a great loss if relations with the United States become sour. The bilateral relations are not an issue of our likes and dislikes. Since Japan has been placed under obligations of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and free trade, we should offer our maximum support when the United States is in trouble unless it strays from the right path. I believe that the most important principle is the two nations' international leadership based on an eternal partnership.

[Obama] As Mr. Kume noted earlier, we all agree that Japanese- U.S. relations are beneficial, but, on the other side, there are a certain number of Americans who feel that the relations are harmful to the United States. I think that the Japanese side should think of ways to foster positive aspects for the United States. What is your comment on that?

[Tanaka] This is a difficult question. It is easy to say that we should have appropriate understanding of the actual situation. However, as a result of drastic changes in the international situation after the end of the cold war, Japan is coming to the fore as a serious rival to the

United States. As long as there are no changes in other preconditions, a disapperance of a common threat makes it difficult to maintain favorable ties between allies. Japan used to listen to what the United States said because it was aware that it was protected by the nation, and the United States used to be tolerant of Japan because the nation was an important ally. We should recognize that conflicts tend to be unnecessarily intensified between allies when their alliance loses its significance. Both sides must be realistic in coping with the problem, but a more important point is that allies should maintain close communications for better mutual understanding. We should consult with each other on even national strategies. We should realize that we are passing a slippery slope.

[Obama] Foreign Minister, what is your plan for promoting bilateral communications?

[Watanabe] As you know, the two nations have been actively carrying on personnel exchanges. For the future, I recommend that legislators of the two nations visit each other more frequently. We should promote personnel exchanges with Washington, but also with many other cities all over the United States. We can visit various U.S. cities, and invite local politicians from those cities to conclude sister-city relationships. Both sides will be able to build up mutual understanding if we make sufficient efforts. What we have to do is to deepen mutual understanding.

[Obama] You are right. Anyway, in my opinion, Japanese-U.S. relations are entering a new phase after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. An important problem confronting Japan this year must be how we can build up the new relations. Gentlemen, thank you very much for joining us today.

Miyazawa Gives 'Upbeat Evaluation' of Summit

OW1001133492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1311 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told Atlanta-based Cable News Network (CNN) on Friday that he does not regard Japan bashing in the United States as a serious problem.

A plurality of opinions is the foundation of democracy, a Foreign Ministry official quoted Miyazawa as saying. The official briefed reporters on the taped interview to be broadcast early Sunday Japan Time.

The official said Miyazawa gave an upbeat evaluation of his first summit with U.S. President George Bush, and said he believes both sides were satisfied with the results.

The prime minister described as unfair criticism made by some U.S. automobile executives who joined Bush on his January 7 through 10 visit. The executives had said that they were not completely satisfied with attempts to boost trade in automobiles and auto parts.

If both countries cooperate, American exports to Japan are certain to increase over the next several years, he told his interviewers in English.

Miyazawa also expressed confidence that Japan would achieve its goal of 3.5 percent economic growth in 1992, a pledge made during Bush's visit.

Asked for his views about whether Japan would be at a disadvantage should a democratic candidate be elected to the U.S. presidency in November, Miyazawa replied that he believed Bush has broad support and is a fine President.

Officials in Japan have expressed concern that a Democratic presidential victory could lead to U.S. protectionism.

Sony Chairman on Economic Relations With U.S.

OW1201153392 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0907 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Interview with Sony Corporation Chairman Akio Morita by NHK announcer Motonobu Fujita; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Fujita] Mr. Morita, how do you rate results of the Japanese-U.S. summit talks?

[Morita] Well, both the Japanese and U.S. sides expressed their dissatisfaction with the results. Throughout the talks, I think that the President of the United States barely succeeded in keeping up appearances on the eve of the presidential election. I mean that they wanted to bring back achievements clearly stated in figures. Since it was impossible for each company to offer such figures, the government had to take part in business negotiations. While the U.S. side is always criticizing the Japanese Government's administrative guidance practices, business negotiations this time required the government's involvement. In this sense, I think that the summit talks were somewhat indecent.

[Fujita] You are one of the Japanese business leaders who attended talks with the U.S. business mission. How was the atmosphere?

[Morita] The atmosphare was quite sour, and I did have arguments with them. From our viewpoint, their demands often looked quite unreasonable.

[Fujita] Regarding this point, our impression was that they one-sidedly insisted that the Japanese market still has an exclusive structure without examining the effectiveness of U.S. business efforts and the causes of the U.S. economy's slowdown. What is your comment on that?

[Morita] I cannot definitely answer the question, but it may be related to winner's logic. Nowadays, military superpowers are losing their influence, and hegemony is being taken over by nations with economic power. In this sense, Japan is one of those nations that is obtaining new hegemony in the world. Moreover, it appears that we are stronger than they are. This stipulates their strong fear of Japan. While their demands look unreasonable to us, they still believe that everything begins with Japan's unfairness.

We have been carrying on business on the grounds of a market mechanism, and the mechanism is composed of correlating prices and product quality; however, it seems that there is great disparity between Japanese and U.S. concepts of this mechanism. They say that they are willing to buy high-quality products, but that there is no way to compete with Japanese products with unfairly cheap prices. They claim that all U.S. companies will die if Japan continues to sell goods in such a destructive manner. They are containing their screams while asking Japan not to destroy their chances to reconstruct the economy.

They do not openly say this, but they think they give higher pay and longer holidays to their employees, and they have to give more dividends to their shareholders. In comparison, Japanese workers work like dogs for cheaper pay, and firms pay cheaper dividends to their shareholders. They claim that they do not care what Japanese firms do at home, but Japanese business practices should not be brought into the United States.

[Morita] I have long been dealing with external trade and coping with problems of friction. I think that I have dealt only with visible parts of the problem without consideration for the root cause. I have accepted voluntary restraint agreements so that the friction does not worsen, extending them every three years; however, we will not be accepted by international business circles as long as we maintain the present policy. The U.S. side may say that they will not buy Japanese products anymore, and we may reply that they would be in trouble if they kicked Japanese products out—but we both must not take such attitudes.

Japan must reconsider that it is about time to think about how firms, businessmen, and their families coexist in society, rather than persuing more market shares. It is a very difficult question, but we must review the profit allotment system in society to improve our lives; however, we are still very proud of ourselves as businessmen who have been working hard for a long time to reconstruct postwar Japan. What I want to say is that it is about time to completely review our relations regarding economic activities.

First Direct Credit Line to U.S. Firm Planned

OW1001125592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan is planning to extend its first direct credit to an American firm as part of the government's effort to correct the country's 41 billion dollar trade surplus with the United States.

The credit line will be extended to Florida-based CLI Systems Inc., an electronic equipment maker, for investment in plant and equipment, financial sources said Friday.

CLI has a patent for preventing cars and other products from rusting using an electronic system.

The firm is planning to spend about 1.5 million dollars to beef up its export capacity.

About half of that amount will be provided by the Export-Import bank, spread over a period of three to five years.

The Japanese Government and the bank put together a program supporting U.S. exports to Japan in April 1990.

Since working out a system for providing direct loans they have been in the process of selecting firms to receive the loans.

Toyota To Negotiate With Yanase on GM Deal

OW1101095092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0924 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. will start negotiations soon with leading car importer Yanase and Co. on a business tie-up to sell General Motors Corp. (GM) automobiles in Japan, Toyota officials said Saturday.

Regarding GM car sales in Japan, Toyota's top executives and GM chairman Robert Stempel have agreed that consideration should be given to Yanase, which has been engaged in import and sales of GM cars for 50 years, the officials said.

Stempel accompanied U.S. President George Bush on his four-day visit to Japan this week.

Toyota, Japan's largest automaker, has announced its plan to sell 5,000 GM cars a year as part of efforts to help boost sales of U.S. cars in Japan.

In the negotiations with Yanase, Toyota will work out the specifics of the scheme, including the timing of the sales launch and models to be handled, the officials said.

Yanase Chairman and President Jiro Yanase has hinted at his readiness to accept Toyota's offer of a sales tie-up on condition that Toyota's dealers are supplied with GM cars through Yanase.

U.S. Networks Reportedly Taped Bush's Collapse

OW1201131392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Unspecified Tokyo bureaus of U.S. television networks were able to record the unreleased images of President George Bush collapsing at a Tokyo banquet last Wednesday, Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) press officers said Sunday.

ABC news broadcast previously unreleased footage Saturday night showing the President's head fall forward before he slumped from his chair and was helped by his wife, Barbara, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, and others.

The officials said NHK gave the networks access to a video feed of the speeches and toasts by Bush and Miyazawa. NHK earlier said there was no tape of the collapse itself, because a studio technician began recording the scene only after seeing the collapse on a monitor.

NHK was to record and broadcast only the speeches and the toasts by Bush and Miyazawa but its staff could not prevent others from broadcasting the scenes of Bush collapsing from his chair, the officials said.

The officials said they did not know which American network recorded the scene or how ABC got the tape.

NHK showed the collapse segment of the tape Sunday, credited to ABC.

Minister Plans Bush, Baker Meetings in U.S.

OW1301103292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe may meet briefly with U.S. President George Bush when he visits Washington next week for an international conference on coordination of aid to the former Soviet republics, a top Foreign Ministry source said Monday.

The source told reporters Watanabe will be meeting for separate talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and foreign ministers of several countries he has not met since taking office last year.

He said Watanabe will likely pay a courtesy call on Bush, but added Japan would not press for the meeting if the President's schedule is too busy, as he has just returned from an official visit here.

The source said one topic to be taken up during Watanabe's possible talks with Bush will be the results of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's January 16-18 visit to South Korea.

Tokyo To Urge Rice Exemption From Tariff Plan

OW1001151892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1441 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Japan plans to call on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to exempt rice from the comprehensive tariffication proposal put forward last month by its director general, Arthur Dunkel, government sources said Friday.

Japan cannot accept the comprehensive tariffication proposal, said an official of the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry.

Implementation of the tariffication plan would lead to the opening of Japan's closed rice market.

The Japanese official's comments are in response to GATT Director General Dunkel's intention, expressed earlier in the day, to push for a final decision on his draft accord at an upcoming Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) meeting. The draft which, if accepted, would rewrite the rules of global trade, includes a provision to convert all nontariff barriers on farm trade into tariffs.

The TNC of GATT is set to convene Monday.

Some officials within the government believe, however, that it is not to Japan's advantage to shove through its demands on rice in the wake of the Japan-U.S. summit talks held earlier in the week, the sources said.

They contend that Tokyo's insistence could be blamed for a failure of the five-year-long Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks aimed at dismantling barriers to global free trade.

Thus, Tokyo is expected to move cautiously on the issue, keeping open the possibility of accepting the tariffication proposal, while closely monitoring the European Community's reaction to the Dunkel draft.

The EC has also voiced dissatisfation with the provisions in the draft accord regarding agricultural trade.

To Continue Resisting 'Pressure'

OW1101080992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0748 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Japan will hold a series of informal talks with the United States and other countries in Geneva in a move to retain its ban on rice imports, government sources said Saturday.

The sources said Japan will continue to resist pressure from Washington and other farm exporting countries to open its rice market.

Discussions on the farm issue will resume Monday at the Trade Nagotiations Committee (TNC) for the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks under the auspices of the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

A proposal for tariffication of farm imports without exception, worked out by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel, will be the focus of the discussions which will continue through mid-April.

On Friday, Dunkel expressed intention to push for a final decision on his draft accord at the upcoming TNC meeting.

The sources said Japan considers the Dunkel proposal unfair to importing countries and will seek revision of the proposal.

However, they also said Japan may make a political decision to conditionally agree to tariffication of farm imports, depending on stances by the U.S. and other countries.

TNC 'Unlikely' To Reject Dunkel Proposal

OW1001133992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1246 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—The Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will have no choice but to accept the proposal on tariffication of farm imports put forward by the GATT chief when it meets Monday, government sources said Friday.

The across-the-board tariffication scheme, which will eventually force Japan to open its rice market, was proposed in a draft accord presented by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel last month.

The sources said it is highly unlikely that participating countries will reject the draft accord, although minor changes may be made in the text through negotiations.

In Geneva, Dunkel on Friday urged countries of the world to make their final decisions on his proposal for rewriting the rules of global trade when the TNC meets.

This is necessary so that the Uruguay Round of global trade talks can be successfully concluded by Easter, which falls on April 19, Dunkel told reporters.

Minister Hata Warns About Quick Rice Decision

OW1101105992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Nagano, Jan. 11 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata warned the government Saturday against a rash decision on the opening of the Japanese rice market.

Hata said at a news conference in Nagano the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries should take the initiative to seek the people's understanding of Japan's agricultural policy.

The finance minister made the remark in connection with the resumption next week of farm trade talks by the Trade Negotiations Committee of the ongoing Uruguay round under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"It would be difficult (for the GATT) to give favors to certain nations (on the farm issue). Japan cannot quit the GATT because it has benefited most from it," Hata said.

Minister Says Rice Market Opening Inevitable

OW1101152392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1449 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Saturday the opening of Japan's rice market is inevitable.

Opening the rice market while trying not to upset the lives of Japanese farmers is unavoidable to a certain extent, Watanabe said in comments taped for a television program.

But Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata warned against a rash government decision on the opening of the Japanese rice market.

Hata said at a news conference in Nagano the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries should take the initiative to seek the people's understanding of Japan's agricultural policy.

During another recording made earlier in the day, the foreign minister said Japan will be in the most trouble if the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks fails, and he vowed to make efforts to make the talks successful.

Watanabe said a slump in the U.S. auto industry is being caused by a lack of effort on the part of the United States. However he said Japan's support for President George Bush's administration will help the U.S. maintain its free trade system. He also said Tokyo's utmost cooperation with the U.S. will benefit Japan.

Miyazawa Hopes To Cement Cooperation With ROK

OW1101105492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will seek to cement cooperative relations between Japan and South Korea during his three-day visit to Seoul starting Thursday, officials said Saturday.

The officials said Miyazawa will make known his policy concerning the Korean peninsula in a speech at a National Assembly session Friday.

In his talks with South Korean President No Tae-u, Miyazawa will lay down his concept to build a Japan-South Korea partnership on a global basis to contribute to improving the livelihood of peoples in Asia and the Pacific region, the officials said.

They said Japan believes South Korea's economic strength is now powerful enough to provide official development assistance to other countries in the region.

Miyazawa's concept is aimed at steering Japan and South Korea toward developing a cooperative partnership on a global basis and away from confrontation resulting from Japan's past colonial rule of the Korean peninsula, the officials said.

They said Japan's approach toward South Korea forms one of two main pillars of its foreign policy, the other being the global partnership with the United States laid down in the Tokyo Declaration issued at the end of summit talks with U.S. President George Bush earlier this week.

Miyazawa, in his speech, will welcome North Korea's decision to accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities as a move toward easing tensions on the Korean peninsula, the officials said.

They said the prime minister will praise No's declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and pledge Japan's all-out support for Seoul's efforts to relieve tension in the region.

Miyazawa will also express his determination to avoid North Korea's isolation in the international community through talks for normalization between Tokyo and Pyongyang, the officials said.

He will apologize to South Korea for what Japanese officials call the "unfortunate past" marked by Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula, they said.

Miyazawa will propose the strengthening of economic and cultural relations between the two countries, including an extension of a program under which Korean youths are invited to visit Japan, the officials said.

Role in Forced Korean Prostitution Admitted

OW1201044492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0423 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 (KYODO)—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe acknowledged in a television interview that the former Japanese Imperial Army was involved in wartime forced prostitution of women from Korea and other Asian nations.

"I cannot help acknowledging the involvement (of the Imperial Army) in the forced prostitution," the foreign minister said in a program nationally televised Saturday night.

The statement marks the first time a Japanese Government official has admitted the defunct Imperial Army's implication in the alleged recruitment and forced prostitution of hundreds of thousands of Asian "comfort women" during World War II.

Asked whether Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa would issue an apology to Koreans during his scheduled visit to Seoul starting January 16, Watanabe said, "there may be some moves," indicating the possibility of an apology.

Watanabe also said in the interview, "I am troubled that the abominable episodes have been unraveled and they give me a heart-ache."

The statement was an apparent reference to the recent discovery of a confidential wartime army ministry directive indicating the army was connected with the forced prostitution.

According to a report Saturday in the ASAHI SHIMBUN newspaper, the directive said, "the armed forces should control the recruitment process (of comfort women) and ensure that no mistakes be committed (so as) not to trigger social backlashes and to preserve the reputation of the army."

The newspaper report came at a time when the Seoul Government is demanding that Tokyo investigate and clear up ambiguities in Japan's official position on the comfort woman issue.

Last December, three former Korean comfort women filed a lawsuit demanding official apology and compensation for wartime agony suffered in the brothels.

In reply, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato promised to probe the issue and reportedly instructed relevant government agencies to search for wartime documents verifying the allegations of kidnapping and forced prostitution.

The Tokyo Government has long stuck to a position that the 1965 Japan-South Korea basic treaty ended Seoul's war reparations claims, as well as claims from individual victims of wartime army activities.

Analysts said Watanabe's acknowledgement of Imperial Army involvement, and the suggestions of a possible apology from Miyazawa, were offered to assuage anti-Japanese sentiment among South Koreans.

Historians estimate that during World War II some 100,000 to 200,000 women, mostly from Korea, were forced into prostitution for Japanese soldiers.

In an address in Fukuoka City, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato said Prime Minister Miyazawa will convey Japan's acknowledgement to South Korean leaders in Seoul that the comfort women issue is a matter that should be addressed.

Kato, Miyazawa's chief spokesman, said the prime minister will meet Foreign Minister Watanabe, Kato, and other senior Japanese officials Sunday afternoon to help determine the government's wording on the issue ahead of Miyazawa's trip to South Korea from January 16 to 18.

"The judicial implications notwithstanding, this 'comfort women' problem presents a serious case," Kato said, hinting at the Japanese Government's willingness to resolve it one way or another.

Miyazawa's 16 Jan Trip to ROK Previewed

OW1301120592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1153 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will propose a Japan-South Korea forum to study measures to correct their bilateral trade imbalance during his trip to Seoul later this week, government officials said Monday.

Miyazawa will visit Seoul for three days from Thursday for talks with South Korean President No Tae-u to lay the groundwork for partnership between the two countries.

The officials said the group will be made up of about 30 government, business, and academic experts from both sides.

The group will study causes of the trade imbalance, which favors Japan, and measures to promote technology transfer from Japan to South Korea, the officials said.

South Korea has asked Japan to expand preferential tariffs on 13 products, including polyethylene, to reduce Japan's expanding trade surplus.

Japanese statistics show Japan's surplus for the first 11 months of last year amounted to 7 billion dollars, up from 5.8 billion dollars for the whole of 1990.

South Korea also asked Japan to provide 150 million dollars for the establishment of a 200 million dollar fund aimed at promoting technology transfer from Japan, the officials said.

Japan remains cautious about the request since the nature of the fund is not clear, they said.

Miyazawa Attendance at Security Summit in Doubt

OW1101120992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1130 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Either Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa or Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will represent Japan at a New York summit meeting involving the 15 member states of the U.N. Security Council, government sources said Saturday.

United Nations Secretary General Boutros Butrus Ghali said in Paris on Friday that the summit meeting will take place in New York on January 31. Ghali released the date of the proposed summit after talks with French President Francois Mitterrand.

British Prime Minister John Major proposed the summit since Britain chairs the Security Council during January.

Major earlier sent a letter of invitation to Miyazawa asking for his participation, they said.

Miyazawa hopes to attend the summit himself, the sources said, noting that Japan has become one of the 10 nonpermanent members of the Security Council and that it has urged the world body to play a greater role in global security affairs.

The government needs to secure the consent of opposition parties, however, before it can send the prime minister abroad while the Diet is in session late January. Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato says Miyazawa's attendance at the Security Council meeting will be "extremely difficult" because of Diet business.

Foreign Minister Watanabe, who is also deputy prime minister, will go to New York if opposition parties disagree with Miyazawa's attendance, government sources said.

The Diet is scheduled to go into a 150-day ordinary session January 24, and the House of Representatives' Budget Committee is due to initiate its debate in late January.

Government sources said if Miyazawa is allowed to attend the conference, the meeting will provide a forum where the prime minister could hold summit talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

It would bolster Miyazawa's profile and prestige in the international political arena as well as in domestic political circles, they said.

The proposed conference involving leaders of the 15 permanent and nonpermanent members of the U.N. Security Council is the first of its kind in the world body's history.

Miyazawa's attendance would epitomize Japan's willingness to live up to a commitment made in the "Tokyo Declaration" signed with the United States on January 9, when Japan pledged to carry out "an equitable sharing of responsibilities," the sources said.

The conference is widely expected to carry crucial implications for the formation of a new world order following the dissolution of the Soviet Union and its subsequent replacement with the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Japan will have to send Watanabe to the meeting, however, unless the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, of which Miyazawa is president, can reach an accord with opposition parties, the sources said.

Meanwhile, Tokyo expressed dismay over a report in Britain's GUARDIAN newspaper that leaders of the 15 member states will be asked to approve the proposed creation of a permanent U.N. force, the sources said.

The report, quoting U.N. diplomatic sources, said a draft declaration of the conference calls for each state to agree to put a portion of its own armed forces under the command of the U.N. Security Council so that the U.N. force can be deployed to counter emergencies at any time.

A senior Foreign Ministry official said, "We have not heard of any plan to create a permanent U.N. force."

The member states are "not likely" to endorse any proposal to create a new force, the official said.

International Nuclear Disarmament Body Proposed

OW1301063692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0613 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 (KYODO)—Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone proposed a new multinational organization for nuclear disarmament on Monday at the opening of a world parliamentarians' meeting on the United Nations.

Nakasone made the proposal in a keynote speech to the two-day meeting at a Tokyo hotel. He also urged election of Japan and other "appropriate member states" as permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The current permanent members are the United States, Russia, France, Britain and China—the main victor nations of World War II.

Speaking to the gathering of some 50 parliamentarians from 16 countries, Nakasone said that the job of controlling the spread of nuclear arsenals should no longer be left to nuclear powers alone.

He proposed that a new international system for inspection and verification be considered when the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) comes up for review in 1995.

Nakasone warned that serious international economic frictions could emerge because the former Soviet bloc countries are likely to regulate imports to protect their infant industries, while promoting exports.

He suggested that special protective provisions should be allowed because without doing so there will be "no prosperity and harmony in the world economy."

Full Relations Reestablished With South Africa

OW1301083592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0729 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Japan and South Africa reestablished full diplomatic relations Monday, upgrading them from the consular to ambassadorial level.

Foreign Ministry officials said Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Alexander Waldemar Kuhn, South African consul general in Tokyo, exchanged diplomatic notes in a ceremony at the ministry, putting full-fledged relations into effect for the first time since they were broken off during World War II.

Watanabe said Japan took the move "with a view to positive developments in South Africa toward establishing democratic institutions."

In a statement issued after the ceremony, Watanabe referred specifically to the fact of talks between South Africa's political forces on forming a new constitution which began in December.

The foreign minister pledged Japan would strengthen efforts to facilitate the early establishment of democracy and freedom there.

Japan has maintained a consulate general in Pretoria since 1963, but previously has refused to reopen full diplomatic ties due to the South African Government's since-renounced policy of apartheid.

Officials said the Japanese Government will upgrade the consulate general to the rank of an embassy in late January. South Africa's consulate general in Tokyo became an embassy Monday.

Diplomatic sources said that a long-anticipated visit to Japan by South African President F.W. de Klerk is being considered for the second half of this year.

South Africa has diplomatic relations with 37 countries. Apart from Taiwan, Japan is the only Asian country to have full diplomatic ties with Pretoria.

Japan, in recognition of the progress of Pretoria's reforms aimed at ending apartheid, lifted bans on the issuance of tourist visas to South Africa and on educational and cultural exchanges last June, and most of its economic sanctions in October.

Japan also lifted in October its ban on direct air links between the two countries, though talks have yet to commence on their establishment.

The remaining sanctions include some measures pertaining to sports exchanges, though most were lifted in June, the export of weaponry to South Africa, and the export of computers to the military, police, or other agencies which enforced apartheid.

Miyazawa Denies Bribe Money Used in Campaign

OW1301122492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1213 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Prosecutors Monday arrested former cabinet minister Fumio Abe, a close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, on suspicion of taking bribes from a now bankrupt steel-frame maker.

Abe, a House of Representatives member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), was a former secretary general of the LDP's second largest faction led by Miyazawa.

He served in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Miyazawa's immediate predecessor, as director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies. [passage omitted]

Miyazawa told reporters he has not heard about the raids.

Miyazawa, however, dismissed press reports that a portion of the funds Abe received from Kyowa went to his quest for the LDP presidency and hence prime ministership last year.

Opposition parties have already vowed to press the government to determine the facts regarding the alleged involvement of Abe and other Miyazawa-faction legislators in the Kyowa scam.

"The government regrets the raids on a person who once held the portfolio of a cabinet minister," Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told a news conference. "The government seriously took the raids as an issue of money politics urging (greater) political ethics," said Kato, a senior member of the Miyazawa faction. "I am deeply troubled as his comrade (belonging to the same Miyazawa faction)," he said. [passage omitted]

Opposition To Pursue Scandal in Diet Session

OW1301142392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1328 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 13 KYODO—Opposition parties said Monday they plan on making the bribery scandal involving former cabinet member Fumio Abe, arrested for taking bribes from a now bankrupt steel-frame maker, a major issue in the upcoming Diet session.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP), Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) said the getting to the bottom of the scandal will be one of their top agenda items in the ordinary Diet session scheduled to convene January 24.

The Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office on Monday arrested Abe, 69, a former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, on suspicion of taking 80 million yen in bribes from Kyowa Corp.

Abe is regarded as a close ally of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. He belonged to the governing Liberal Democratic Party and its second largest faction headed by Miyazawa before bolting from it upon his arrest.

SDP Secretary General Sadao Yamahana said, "the arrest of Abe has again illustrated money-oriented Japanese politics as the Recruit and the Lockheed scandals did before."

Yuichi Ichikawa, secretary general of the country's second largest opposition party Komeito, said the prime minister cannot escape from his political and moral responsibility for Abe's arrest.

Ichikawa said he suspects Abe collected the money from Kyowa as part of Miyazawa's campaign war chest for the LDP presidential election in October 1991.

DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi said the scandal may involve more LDP politicians than the 1988-1989 Recruit scandal.

Earlier Monday, Miyazawa told reporters that political parties and politicians must be more mindful of political ethics in their political life than ever before.

The prime minister denied his faction has received some of the bribery money, saying, "I have never heard this and there is no such a fact."

Mongolia

Congress Approves New Democratic Constitution

OW1301042592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0410 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, Jan. 13 KYODO—The parliament of Mongolia endorsed a new constitution Monday designed to make the country's political system more democratic and the economy more market oriented, officials said.

The new constitution approved by the People's Great Hural, the highest legislative body, will come into force in a month, and general elections to elect a new government will be held this summer, the officials said.

Under the new constitution, the country's name will be changed from the Mongolian People's Republic to Mongolia, and a yellow star symbolizing communism will be removed from the upper left corner of the national flag.

The text of the constitution was drawn up in both the Russian cyrillic alphabet and the traditional Mongolian script.

The cyrillic alphabet was adopted as the national script in place of the traditional script after the 1945 independence from China.

The constitution calls for the creation of a "humanitarian society" oriented to the welfare of its citizens, while pledging to secure equality of citizens under the law.

It also pledges to honor the principle of checks and balances among the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary, under a presidential system of rule.

The charter calls for legalizing private ownership of urban land and property while retaining state ownership of grassland for pasture.

Holding of General Elections Planned for Jul

OW1101143392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1358 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, Jan. 11 KYODO—Mongolia will next month promulgate a new constitution that renounces socialism, according to a draft of the document obtained Saturday by KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

Mongolian sources said the country's highest legislative body, the People's Great Hural, has completed its debate on the constitution and is expected to approve it unanimously Monday.

The sources said the new constitution will be put into place one month after it is approved by the legislature and general elections will be held in July.

Mongolia would become the first formerly socialist nation in Asia to renounce socialism.

The draft constitution declares the construction of a society based on humanity as the utmost task of the nation, departing from the old system which placed a priority on communism and called for close relations with the now defunct Soviet Union [sentence as received].

The new constitution calls for a democratic system based on justice, freedom, equality, and national unity.

It prohibits foreign troops from staying in the country or passing through its territory, ending a 70-year presence of Soviet troops in Mongolia.

The constitution also stipulates that the country will abide by international law and pursue peace diplomacy, affirming its neutrality and nonalignment in international affairs.

The country will institute a unicameral legislative system, and will reduce the number of deputies in the legislature to 76 from the present 430.

North Korea

Democratic Front Denounces Bush's Trip to South

SK1301052092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) made public a statement on January 8 denouncing the South Korean trip of U.S. President Bush, according to radio Voice of National Salvation from Seoul.

The statement condemned Bush's tour as a criminal trip to perpetuate the U.S. military domination, intensify the plunder of the South Korean people and stabilize the system of colonial domination.

Bush, it noted, reconfirmed the South Korea-U.S. security commitments and emphasized the continued presence of the U.S. forces in South Korea. This was another open declaration that the United States would persistently block peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, keeping hold on South Korea forever as a colony.

Worse still, Bush called for "a unification by a democratic state based on freedom and market economy". This fully revealed the aggressive intention of the colonial dominator to expand the system of the colonial domination over South Korea to the North through "unification by absorption".

Bush tried to give a shot in the arm to the colonial henchman forsaken by the people, praising the No Tae-u traitor group with lies and distortion, by reeling off "realisation of democracy", "growth of economy" and "contribution to unification".

The United States must no longer go against the will of our people and nation but withdraw its troops from South Korea immediately, give up the pressure for rice market opening at once and take its hands of colonial domination off South Korea.

The No Tae-u group must stop its despicable flunkeyist treacheries and step down from "power" as demanded by the whole people clearly seeing that it can never evade its doom with any support of the U.S. master.

Our Hanminjon together with the South Korean people will intensify the valiant anti-U.S. national liberation struggle to terminate the U.S. aggressive and predatory colonial rule in this land and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

U.S. Must Renounce 'Anachronistic Attitude'

SK0901112192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 9 Jan 92

["Korean Problem Must Not Be Approached From Position of Strength"—KCNA headline]

[Text]Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—The United States must renounce its anachronistic attitude of approching the Korean question with the wornout viewpoint of the Cold War era, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article.

Noting that the United States which is directly responsible for the Korean problem is under obligation to play a positive role in achieving the peaceful reunification of Korea, the article goes on:

Since an inter-Korean agreement was adopted, the United States must take measures for the withdrawal of its forces from South Korea and the replacement of the Korean armistice agreement with a peace agreement which are essential and inevitable in the solution of the Korean problem and must come out to a DPRK-U.S. dialogue to this end.

The United States, however, does not yet intend to act this way but is clinging to the anachronistic mode of thinking, approaching the Korean problem from the position of strength in accordance with the wornout policy of the Cold War era.

The United States noisily talks about "termination of cold war" and "detente", but, in actuality, it has set the Eastern Hemisphere as the major theatre of cold war and confrontation and is directing the sharp edge of the spearhead to our Republic.

What is particularly noteworthy here is its moves for the permanent occupation of South Korea.

The U.S. authorities blare that the U.S. Forces will be kept in South Korea and the strategy of deployment of the U.S.

Forces in the forward area of Asia be maintained. Charging us with a "plan for the development of nuclear weapons," they threaten that they will introduce "Stealth" fighter-bombers, "Patriot" missiles and other sophisticated weapons into South Korea, if we do not give it up. They are manipulating their allies to put international pressure on us for an unfair nuclear inspection and staging military manoeuvres of all forms against us.

The United States should renounce the foolish notion that its confrontation policy in Korea will yield some results as it did in other regions and should give up its reckless attempts to threaten and blackmail us with strength and attain its aggressive aim with military actions.

Problems cannot be solved from the position of strength and there is nothing to gain from it.

The U.S. anachronistic Korea policy must be rectified.

Daily Views U.S. Suspension of Team Spirit

SK1101124092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0016 GMT 10 Jan 92

[NODONG SINMUN 10 January commentator's article: "Important Victory of Our Peace Policy"]

[Text] At the North-South high-level talks, an agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, and cooperation and exchange between the North and South was adopted and an agreement was reached between the North and South on a joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. On 7 January, the United States and the South Korean authorities jointly announced that they will suspend the 1992 Team Spirit joint military exercise.

This eliminates the danger of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, eases the extremely tense situation, and provides a favorable prerequisite for the country's peace and peaceful reunification. This is also an important victory achieved through the long and arduous struggle of all the Korean people to resolutely defend the country's sovereign rights and our socialist system, and to realize the peace-loving policy at home and abroad to which our party and state have consistently adhered.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise, which started in 1976, is part of a U.S. and South Korean authorities' policy for aggression and war. This is a preliminary war and nuclear test war opposing our Republic.

Regardless of strong opposition from our people, the United States and the South Korean authorities deployed a large number of forces and up-to-date murderous weapons every year in this military exercise, thus openly threatening and intimidating us from the air, land, and sea. In recent years, the military exercise was expanded step by step into an enormous scale so as to carry out a complete war.

Due to this adventurous military exercise commotion, various avenues of North-South dialogues that were provided after a long time were ruptured, a barrier was created in the road for peaceful reunification, and a dark cloud was hovering all the time over our people, who did not know when a nuclear war would break out.

Beginning with the consistent position to oppose war in Korea and achieve peace and peaceful reunification, for 16 years our party and the government of the Republic strongly demanded that the Team Spirit joint military exercise be suspended. Especially, as a constructive measure to eliminate the danger of a nuclear war in Korea, we joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and made a momentous proposal for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

While taking these measures, we hoped that, as a nuclear power, the United States would fulfill its duty of not threatening our country, a non-nuclear state, with nuclear weapons. However, the United States continued to carry out the Team Spirit joint military exercise, increased the nuclear threat against us, and persistently maneuvered to force only us to accept nuclear inspection unilaterally.

In reality, the issue of nuclear inspection in our country is not only one pertaining to fulfilling the duty of the NPT, but was also presented as a life and death issue affecting our nation's fate. Ultimately, the issue of nuclear inspection was not resolved and became all the more complicated. Recently, using this as a pretext, the United States and the South Korean authorities reached a grave stage where they were tyrannical toward us by saying that they will attack our Republic militarily.

Our position on the issue of signing the nuclear safeguards accord and nuclear inspection were fair and square. If the nuclear inspection issue was to be resolved fairly, we consistently demanded that the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea must be completely withdrawn, inspection of our peaceful nuclear facilities and U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea must be carried out simultaneously, and the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which is a nuclear war exercise, must be suspended.

Under no circumstances would we cave in to others' pressure or refrain from doing what we should do or do what we should not do. Our position as such elicits positive support and sympathy from all the Korean people and the people of the world who have a fair view of realities.

Now, at last, the United States proposed to withdraw its tactical nuclear weapons and thus admitted, although indirectly, the presence of its nuclear weapons in South Korea deployed for action, and has withdrawn them. It had no choice but to accept a simultaneous nuclear inspection, which it had so vehemently rejected, and respond to our proposal for negotiations over the simultaneous nuclear inspection.

The South Korean authorities have come to agree on a non-nuclear declaration with us after accepting part of our proposal for creating a nuclear-free zone.

With the United States and the South Korean authorities accepting our demands, a road has been opened for us to sign the nuclear safeguards accord.

With an environment and conditions created for the settling the issue of signing the nuclear safeguards accord, we have decided to sign the accord and accept the nuclear inspection according to appropriate procedures.

Now that reconciliation and nonaggression have been promised and an agreement on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula has been reached between the North and South, in practice there is no basis for the U.S. forces to remain in South Korea, nor any justification to continue the Team Spirit joint military exercise.

All told, the United States and the South Korean authorities had no choice but to jointly announce the discontinuation of the Team Spirit joint military exercise. This is a natural consequence. Going one step farther, this is a brilliant fruition of the struggle waged by all the people in the country to defend the sovereignty and dignity of the fatherland, nation, and people.

In fact, it was indeed a hard task for us to stand up to the large-scale Team Spirit joint military exercise on our own. Our people, who value national sovereignty and dignity as if they were their own lives, had no choice but to detach a large number of personnel from their own workshops to complete a defense posture, inflicting a great loss on production, not for a few days, but for months every year.

It is impossible to calculate the great loss inflicted on us by the adventurous military exercise commotions kicked off by the United States and the South Korean authorities. While overcoming such difficulties with indomitable battle verve, our people have fought in defense of the dignity and honor of the socialist fatherland.

Although the United States and the South Korean authorities prattled that the Team Spirit joint military exercise was against our threat of a southward invasion, we have had neither the ability to attack anybody nor the intention to do so.

Self-defense alone was an uphill battle that was hard for us to overcome while devoting ourselves to peaceful construction. The announcement by the United States and the South Korean authorities to stop the Team Spirit joint military exercise can be said to be a fruition of our arduous struggle.

Our people are now cherishing greater national pride in the successes they have attained in the course of upholding the party's leadership against the imperialists' anti-Republic and antisocialist maneuvers, deepening their faith in certain victory and confidently looking ahead to our future.

Of course, the United States and the South Korean authorities, although they have announced the discontinuation of the Team Spirit joint military exercise this year, did not say that they will discontinue it permanently. Also, it is inconceivable that their nature will change at a stroke. Given the fact that the United States and the South Korean authorities did not hesitate to state that the Team Spirit joint military exercise against us would be resumed if they find any excuse from us in the future, we should avoid taking pride in our victory or being lost in rapture over it. Instead, we should be completely prepared so that we may cope with any unexpected developments with a high degree of revolutionary vigilance.

The United States should abandon the mentality of the cold war period and the policy of strength in keeping with the global trend moving toward detente and reconciliation. Even the South Korean authorities should show sincerity in effecting the North-South agreement.

Our people will do their utmost to ensure durable peace on the Korean peninsula and to achieve the cause of reunification with the united strength of all the people.

U.S. Air Force Stages 'War Exercise' 9 Jan

SK1101044092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce Command on January 9 staged a war exercise aimed at increasing the capacity of joint strike at the north of Pacific-based fighter planes and those of the U.S. Airforce occupying South Korea and the puppet airforce, according to military sources. The U.S. imperialists sent KC-135 refueling tankers for a mid-air refueling of fighter-bombers in the exercise. The South Korean puppets let C-130 transport planes fly in a parachuting exercise of "commandoes" for their infiltration into the depth of the northern half of the country. Various types of war planes mobilized in the manoeuvres that day numbered more than 550. In a separate action, bandits of the puppet army on the same day fired at random more than 400 bullets from a 12.7 mm large-calibre machine gun and M-16 automatic rifles under our eyes. On January 8 a group of 105 mm guns fired scores of shells into an area adjacent to the demilitarized zone along the Military Demarcation Line.

U.S. Military Conducts Air Exercise 10 Jan

SK1201083392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0813 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce and Navy commands Friday sent formations of Japan- and Pacific-based nuclear-capable fighter-bombers and assault planes for a military exercise to increase the capability of joint strike and forestalling strike together with fighter bombers and assault planes of the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce, according to military sources.

Some 200 war planes were mobilized in the exercise.

The U.S. imperialists let fly the high-altitude strategic reconnaissance plane "U-2" to commit aerial photographing and espionage on the targets in the strategic depths of the Northern half of Korea and they mobilized tactical reconnaissance planes including "RV-1" of the Army for an aerial espionage on the forward area of our side.

The South Korean puppets mobilized an unmanned reconnaissance plane to conduct espionage in the forward area of our side and electronic warfare helicopters "EH-60" to conduct all-round electronic espionage on the Northern half of Korea.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Ukraine

SK1101042992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0416 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (KCNA)—A joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Ukraine was signed in Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, on January 9.

The communique says that the governments of the DPRK and the Ukraine agreed to open diplomatic relations from the day when this communique is signed and exchange diplomatic missions at ambassadorial level to develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries in all domains on the principles of the equality of sovereignty, mutual benefit and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

Ukrainian President Expresses Satisfaction

SK1301031192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] On 9 January Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuck met Son Song-pil, our country's ambassador to the Russian Federation, who visited Kiev to establish diplomatic relations.

At the meeting the ambassador delivered greetings to the president from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The president expressed his deep thanks for these greetings and asked the ambassador to deliver his warmest greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The president expressed satisfaction that a joint communique between the two countries on establishing diplomatic relations was signed. In addition, he is convinced that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will be favorably developed in the future.

He said: The Ukraine has supported the Korean people's cause for national reunification. It will support them in the future as well.

Talks were held in a friendly atmosphere.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Turkmenia

SK1301024692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] A joint communique between the DPRK and Turkmenia on establishing diplomatic relations was signed on 10 January in Moscow.

The joint communique reads:

Joint communique between the DPRK and Turkmenia on establishing diplomatic relations.

The goverments of the DPRK and Turkmenia agree to establish diplomatic relations and to exchange diplomatic missions at the ambassadorial level to develop friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries in all fields based on the principles of independence, equality, reciprocity, and nonintervention in each other's internal affairs.

[Signed] Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador extrardinary and plenipotentiary to the Russian Federation, by authorization of the Government of the DPRK.

[Signed] Avdy Kuliyev, minister of foreign affairs of Turkmenia, by authorization of the Government of the Turkmenia.

[Dated] 10 January 1992, Moscow.

Envoy to Russia Holds News Conference on N-Issue

SK1201122192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] On 8 January, a press conference was held in our country's Embassy in Russia in connection with the new policies and tasks put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address to expedite national reunification.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's portrait was respectfully displayed in the conference hall.

Present at the press conference were reporters of papers, news agencies and broadcast stations in Russia.

At the press conference, Son Song-pil, our country's ambassador to Russia, made a statement.

He pointed out that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in this year's New Year address put forward a new policy for realizing national reunification at an early date by sincerely implementing the North-South agreement based on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity.

He continued: This policy is a most precise guideline enabling one to expedite our cause of national reunification. To expedite the national reunification at an early date, one should firmly maintain the independent position. Without the independent position, no one can resolve any issue for national reunification in the interest of our nation and according to the demands of our people.

The important issue which should be resolved with urgency in achieving national reunification is to provide a precondition for peaceful reunification. The North and the South should make all efforts to realize disarmament, ease tension, and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free and peace zone, in conformity with the spirit of the North-South agreement.

The relevant countries should honor the spirit of the North-South agreement. In particular, they should not carry out such an arrogant and rude act as applying pressure on us by putting forward the issue of nuclear inspection. We have repeatedly clarified that we have neither the intention nor the ability to develop nuclear weapons and we would be ready to accept the nuclear inspection under a condition that guarantees fairness.

As the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught, it is inconceivable that due to someone else's pressure, we do not carry out the work which we should do, or we carry out what we should not do.

If someone recklessly enforces his unjust demand on our people, he would face a deserved counterattack and history would hold him responsible for unpredictable consequences arising therefrom.

All the Korean people in the North, the South, and overseas should firmly unite under the banner of the great national unity and should actively struggle to expedite the cause of national reunification.

The ambassador then introduced the statement's contents given by a Foreign Ministry spokesman in our country dated 7 January. He stressed:

Proceeding from the lofty mission and ideal of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the government of our Republic put forward a proposal for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone, and made consistent efforts to realize this.

It is an essential and invariable position which we maintained in the nuclear inspection issue to remove the nuclear threat against us by forcing the U.S. nuclear weapons to be withdrawn from South Korea.

The South Korean authorities recently responded by adopting a joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, which we put forward a long time ago, and the United States welcomed the South Korean authorities' declaration on nonexistence of nuclear weapons. Thanks to our principled position and patient efforts, a possibility of fairly resolving the nuclear issue has been created on the Korean peninsula. This proves that our principled position concerning the issue of nuclear inspection was totally just.

Since circumstances and conditions have matured to allow fair resolution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula, the government of the Republic declared that it will sign the nuclear safeguards accord in the near future, will ratify the accord by taking legal procedures at the earliest time and will accept the inspection when an agreement is reached with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The government of the Republic will in the future, too, sincerely fulfill its mission assigned by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and will actively contribute to totally abolishing nuclear weapons from the earth and to defending peace and security in Asia and in the world.

Following his statement, the ambassador answered reporters' questions.

Envoy to China Holds News Conference on N-Issue

SK1201103292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] A press conference was held in our country's embassy in China in connection with the Korean peninsula nuclear issue. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's portrait was displayed at the press conference. Reporters of Chinese newspapers, news agencies, radios, and China-based reporters of various countries attended the press conference.

Chu Chang-chun, our country's ambassador to China, spoke at the press conference: He pointed out that completely withdrawing U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and fundamentally eliminating the U.S. nuclear threat against us are principled stances which the DRPK Government has consistently maintained in connection with the nuclear inspection issue. He said that our government has put forward a proposal for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and has steadily tried to realize this goal.

The tense circumstances, in which nuclear weapons have been deployed in South Korea and have been targeted against us, have provided a stumbling block to resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. He stressed that the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula is being resolved by the consistent efforts of the government and its progressive stance.

He summed up the major and progressive measures, which the government has taken at every time to resolve the nuclear issue. He said that the nuclear issue is at last being resolved. He stressed that this is completely the result of principled and sustained efforts of our government. He also stressed that this once again demonstrates that the principled stance, which we have taken in connection with the nuclear issue, has been absolutely just.

Since the United States and the South Korean authorities have recently accepted our principled claim and demand, circumstances and conditions for impartially resolving the nuclear issue that have been delayed so far, now exist. He revealed that in the Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement on 7 January, the government decided to sign the nuclear safeguards accord in the near future, to ratify it according to legal procedure at the earliest date, to receive inspections when an agreement is reached with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], and to officially notify the IAEA of this.

In conclusion, he once again declared that, by sincerely discharging its duties required by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in the future, the government will positively contribute to completely eliminating nuclear weapons from the earth and the cause of defending Asia's and the rest of the world's peace and security.

After he spoke, he answered reporters' questions.

Egyptian President Congratulates Kim Chong-il

SK1001131792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a message of greetings from Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in connection with his election as the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

The Egyptian president sincerely wished Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and happiness as well as success in the work of realising the Korean people's desire for the development and prosperity of the country.

Koreans in Russia Congratulate Kim Chong-il

SK0901112492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from the Soviet Committee for the Promotion of Korea's Reunification, the Moscow Korean veterans, merited workers and family committee and the family of hero of the DPRK An Tong-su living in the Russian Federation, congratulating him upon his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

The messages say that the election of Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army imbues our Korean nation and overseas compatriots with national pride and conviction of victory in their cause.

The messages express their determination to hold Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem forever as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and devotedly fight to accomplish the cause of national reunification as early as possible.

Kim Il-song Meets Church Officials From South

SK1301103892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today met Rev. Kwon Ho-kyong, director of the National Council of Christian Churches of South Korea, and Dr. Pak Kyong-so, chairman of the Asian Policy Council of the World Council of Churches, on a visit to the northern half of Korea.

Chairman Kang Yong-sop and Secretary Rev. Ko Ki-chun of the Central Committee of the Korean Christians Federation were on hand.

President Kim Il-song had a conversation with Rev. Kwon Ho-kyong and his companion in an atmosphere overflowing with compatriotic feelings.

President Kim Il-song arranged a luncheon for them.

Officials Depart Pyongyang 13 Jan

SK1301151992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1504 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—Rev. Kwon Ho-kyong, director of the National Council of Christian Churches of South Korea, and Dr. Pak Kyong-so, chairman of the Asian Policy Council of the World Council of Churches, left here today by air.

They were seen off at the airport by Rev. Ko Ki-chun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Korean Christians Federation, and officials of the federation.

On the 12th, Rev. Kwon and his companion visited the Pongsu Church and had a Sunday divine service.

Foreign Policy Reflects People's Aspirations

SK0801104192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 8 Jan 92

["It Is Our Consistent Stand To Contribute to Common Cause of Mankind"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—The basic ideal of the foreign policy of our republic, the keynote of which is independence, peace and friendship, reflects the common aspiration of our people and the world's progressive people to build an independent and peaceful new world and the demand of the era as well, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article continues:

The ideal of independence is the kernel of the foreign policy of our republic. The government of our republic raises it as the firm principle of its external activities to adhere to the independent stand.

Our republic decides on its foreign policy independently, establishes and develops relations with other countries on the principle of complete independence and equality, appraises all the questions arising in international relations from its own faith and judgement and solves them in the interests of our people and in favour of the cause of global independence.

Peace is the noble ideal of the foreign policy of our republic. The ideal of peace is an essential requirement proceeding from the nature of our state and social system.

Our republic consistently calls for disarmament, the elimination of mass destruction weapons including nuclear weapons, the withdrawal of aggressive military bases and foreign troops from other's territories and the creation of nuclear-free, peace zones in different regions of the world in order to prevent war and defend peace.

We will ensure peace on the Korean peninsula and thus make an active contribution to the realisation of the cause of peace of mankind. We will also make every possible effort to check and frustrate the aggression, interference and sabotages of the imperialists, eliminate the mass destruction weapons including nuclear weapons threatening the existence of mankind and defend peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world, in unity with all the peaceloving people of the world.

The validity and vitality of the foreign policy of our republic lie in that its ideal is also friendship along with independence and peace.

Our republic defines it as the steadfast line of its foreign policy to develop friendly and cooperative relations with other countries on the principle of complete equality and mutual respect.

We will in the future, too, strengthen unity and solidarity with the socialist countries on the principle of independence and in the spirit of comradely cooperation and struggle shoulder to shoulder with their peoples, further strengthen friendship and cooperation with the non-aligned countries and make strenuous efforts to strengthen and develop the non-aligned movement in keeping with the aspiration of the world people for the building of a new independent world.

Dailies: No Tae-u News Conference 'Empty Talk'

SK1201084592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0820 GMT 12 Jan 92

["Papers on No Tae-u's New Year's Press Conference"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 12 (KCNA)—Papers here today brand the "New Year's press conference" called by No Tae-u on January 10 to clarify this year's policy direction as an empty talk disregarding the fellow countrymen's desire.

No Tae-u appeared with his confidants and "talked" for hours. He, however, failed to produce anything new that met the requirements of the changed situation and conforms to the desire of the fellow countrymen, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says, and goes on:

An advertisement of his "administrative achievements" lacking truth, an economic policy devoid of any measures for improvement and a tirade about the North-South relations—this is the sum total of his press conference.

Priding himself on the "achievements" during the four years of his tenure, No told the reporters that, with his "June 29 declaration" carried into practice, an "era of democracy" has "settled" in South Korea. This is a sheer lie utterly destitute of truth.

No's argument about the North-South relations, too, was ambiguous. While uttering not a word about reunification, he described the inter-Korean agreement as one for "co-existence and co-prosperity of the North and the South." Talking about the "full implementation" of the agreement, he also failed to say about nonaggression and reconciliation between the North and the South, the part and parcel of it, but spun out a a string of words about "exchange" and "separated families' problem." At the "press conference" he did not clarify his fundamental stand as regards the reunification question but insisted on their former "exchange first" argument, shelving the questions whose solution is indispensable in implementing the agreement, such as the U.S. troop pullout and the abolition of the "National Security Law."

Contrary to his earlier hint and rumour that he would announce at the New Year's press conference the "candidate" who would replace him in the next term, he said that the "candidate" would be chosen through a free election at a "conference of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP)" after the "National Assembly elections." This means confessing that the "DLP" is torn by factions over the power for the next term and that No's "leading role" is not working within the upper class of the ruling party.

Notably, he announced that the "elections of chiefs of local autonomous bodies" would be postponed on the pretext of "economic consumption", violating even the "law" enacted by his clique itself.

In the final analysis, No's "New Year's press conference" not only disappointed the fellow countrymen who aspire after independence, democracy and reunification but failed to please even the upper class of the ruling party. Thus, No sowed the seed of unrest that would touch off a stronger mass resistance for anti-U.S. independence and reunification, for reunification through alliance with communism and the North and would make the strife within the upper class of the ruling party for the next-term office more acute.

MINJU CHOSON in a commentary stresses that No's treacheries against the fellow countrymen's aspirations will bump into stronger rebuff and resistance of the people.

Kim Il-song's Great National Unity Policy Lauded

SK0801110892 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1024 GMT 8 Jan 92

["Highly Important Guideline of Patriotic Action for Great National Unity"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 8 (KCNA)—The policy of achieving a great national unity which was advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his new year address is a decisive guarantee for national reunification, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The article reads in part:

The great leader said every member of the Korean nation must put the common interests of the nation above all and subordinate everything to these interests in order to realise a great national unity.

That the entire fellow countrymen in the North, South and abroad should put the common interests of the nation above all and subordinate everything to the cause of national reunification, irrespective of the differences of ideology, system and religious belief, is the fundamental principle which should be held fast to in achieving a great national unity.

The reunification of the country is the most urgent, common historical cause of the nation.

To reject or be hostile to each other within the nation for the mere reason that they differ in their political views and isms is fundamentally contrary to the principle of great national unity and such act cannot be allowed for the nation.

The great leader also stressed that the nation should unite in the spirit of patriotism and national independence, irrespective of the differences of ideology, political view and religious belief.

The spirit of patriotism and national independence constitutes the basis of great national unity because it is the common ideological sentiments of the members of the nation.

The great leader put forward a policy saying that broad sections of the fellow countrymen in the North, South and abroad must unite and make tangible contributions to the cause of national reunification, those who have strength by giving strength, those who have knowledge by devoting knowledge and those who have money by donating money.

When broad sections of the fellow countrymen in the North, South and abroad cooperate and unite with each other according to their circumstances and conditions, the movement for national reunification will be expanded and developed into a nationwide movement and the cause of national reunification be accomplished successfully.

The great leader in his new year address said the authorities should discharge their responsibility for achieving a great national unity.

The agreement adopted between the North and the South is a declaration of national independence to settle the reunification question of the country by the efforts of the nation itself, by pooling the efforts of the North and the South, repulsing any foreign interference.

What matters is how the authorities sincerely carry this historical document into effect this year in keeping with the aspirations and expectation of the nation.

The authorities must make every possible effort to put the North- South agreement into reality, not reducing them to a mere sheet of paper, and thus discharge their responsibility and duties for the nation in facilitating national reunification.

People's Confidence in Chosen Road 'Unshakable'

SK0901102992 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0958 GMT 9 Jan 92

["Korean People's Unquestioned Confidence in Future of Socialism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 9 (KCNA)—The Korean people's unequivocal confidence in the road they chose under the wise guidance of the party and the leader and in the future of the chuche-based socialism is becoming all the more unshakable with each passing day and the whole society is replete with it, declares NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The source of the invincibility of our-style socialism lies in that it has a revolutionary people who have dynamically advanced without the slightest vacillation, no matter how many years have passed and no matter how much the circumstances have changed, in the belief that the new will surely emerge victorious and they can successfully complete socialism.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said:

"Our people are fully convinced and optimistic that the further the building of socialism progresses, the better life they will enjoy. They will accomplish the cause of socialism brilliantly by working harder under the unfurled banner of the chuche idea."

The article says:

Our people's firm confidence in the future of socialism finds clear manifestation, first of all, in that they are seeking their ideal, hope and great happiness only in the constant development of socialism.

Now our people entrust not only their own destiny but also the destiny of their posterity to the socialist motherland and seek all the honor, happiness and bright future only in the prosperity of socialism. It is our people's unswerving stand that they can neither live nor make a revolution, nor bring their ideal into reality apart from the superior socialism centred on the people.

The noble ideological and spiritual traits of our people who are staunchly fighting with the firm conviction of the final victory of socialism have been fully displayed in their devoted struggle for the accomplishment of the socialist cause.

Convinced of the final victory of the cause of our-style socialism, our people do not yield to trials and difficulties but go through thick and thin in the efforts to accelerate the revolution and construction.

The revolutionary traits of our people who are convinced of the ultimate victory of socialism have been displayed also in that they have resolutely rejected all the anti-socialist moves of the imperialists.

All the people, as required by the time of the revolution, are doing all their work and leading their life in a militant way to meet the demand of socialism with heightened vigilance against the imperialists' anti-socialist moves. These are the traits of our people. The reality of ours shows that any anti-socialist moves of the imperialists do not go down with the people who are firmly confident in the future of socialism.

Our people's unshakable confidence in the future of socialism has not been formed in a single day. It has been cherished deep in their hearts in a long period of history in which they have built the best socialism centred on the popular masses under the wise guidance of the party and the leader.

Today we have all the conditions and possibilities for dynamically advancing the socialist cause in face of any adversities and difficulties and accomplish it. The great party and leader are leading our revolution, the chuche idea clearly indicates the way to be followed by us, the singlehearted unity of the whole party and the entire people behind the leader has constantly strengthened and powerful foundations of an independent economy have been laid.

Though one generation is replaced by another and time flows, our people's faith in the future of socialism which has been formed and hardened on the basis of the great source of eternal viability and the great reality will remain unshakable.

Chuche Idea Indicates Road to Independence

SK1001131292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 10 Jan 92

["Great Chuche Idea Is Immortal Revolutionary Banner Indicating Road Ahead of Age of Independence"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today runs a signed article entitled "Great Chuche Idea Is Immortal Revolutionary Banner Indicating Road Ahead of Age of Independence".

The article stresses that the chuche idea, the revolutionary idea of the respected leader Comrade Kim il sung, is a great revolutionary idea representing the new era in the development of human history.

The article quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"The revolutionary idea of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great revolutionary banner of the age of chuche, is a great guiding idea, theory and method of the revolution representing the whole historical age involving the present time and the communist future".

Already at a time when the whole world was groaning in fetters of slavery, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, with extraordinary intelligence and clairvoyant scientific penetration, founded the chuche idea, the revolutionary idea reflecting the demand of the tumultuous new era, with deep penetration into it, thus opening up a new road of historical switchover in the the struggle of the people for independence, the paper says, and goes on:

The chuche idea, above all, indicates a road of fully meeting the aspirations and demands of the popular masses for an independent life.

The chuche idea was the first idea in history to expound that independence is the life and soul of man. This helpd the popular masses clearly realise for what they had to fight for a long period at the cost of their blood and sweat.

It gives flowless answers as to the principle, policy of struggle, strategy and tactics and fighting method for fully realising the independence of the popular masses and ways of implementing them.

Especially, it indicates how to make the popular masses full-fledged masters od the world and their own destinies by thoroughly transforming nature, society and man in keeping with the demand of the popular masses to live and develoh in an independent way.

It was thanks to the chuche idea that the original idea that man is the master of nature, society and himself was propounded and comprehensive answers were given to questions of principle arising in letting the popular masses hold the position as masters of the world and play the role as such. This has unfolded a proud reality in which the value and dignity of man is being exalted to the highest level and their independence fully realised.

The chuche idea also indicates the most correct road for the people of each country to carry on the revolution of their country as its masters in a responsible way.

It is an immortal banner leading the revolutions of all stages of our era to victory.

The way of accomplishing the cause of national liberation, class liberation and human emancipation was fully indicated by the great chuche idea. It is a great feat of the chuche idea that it has given perfect answers to theoretical and practical questions arising in socialist and communist construction.

The chuche idea gives a scientific exposition of the world outlook which should be taken not only by the people of the present time but also by those who will live in the future communist society, the mode of their activity, the looks of the communist society, the lawful course of its construction and the principles, strategy, tactics and policies to be maintained in the building of communism. It also fully expounds the leadership method of the ruling party and the method of leading the socialist and communist construction. The theory on the driving force of the revolution, the driving force of the socialist cause which is made up of the integrated whole of the leader, the party and the masses, the theory of strengthening the guidance of the party and the leader and the theory of occupying both the political and ideological fortress and the material fortress in socialist and communist construction under the banner of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, are a wealth of unique ideologies and theories which give answers to the questions which had not been propounded.

The great chuche idea is an invincible revolutionary idea which has brought about tremendous revolutionary changes in the era of independence.

Its innovative role of worldwide significance has been fully demonstrated, first of all, in that it has brought about a radical turn in the ideological and spiritual life of the people.

It is, indeed, an event of worldwide significance that the oppressed and exploited people who had long lived, unaware of the truth that they are responsible for their own destiny, have become aware of their position and role in the world.

The innovative role of the chuche idea also finds expression in that it has powerfully propelled the historical cause of building an independent, new world.

A bright era of independence has come under the rays of the chuche idea, an era in which the miserable exploiting society has been overthrown and a new society built to give the people freedom and happiness.

The new era of history has guided the popular masses to build a society in which they are the master of everything and everything serves them. Herein lies the human-historic exploits of the chuche idea.

The banner of the chuche idea has become the banner of socialism in the whole world.

The great innovative role of the chuche idea also finds expression in that it has opened a new era of independence against imperialism.

The chuche idea which was created in the flame of the anti-imperialist national liberation revolution led the anti-Japanese armed struggle victoriously and started U.S. imperialism on the downhill, proving in the eyes of mankind that imperialism is by no means unconquerable.

The strategy of directing the sharp edge of struggle to U.S. imperialism, the idea of forming an anti-imperialist, anti-U.S. joint front and anti-imperialist united front, the idea of strengthening solidarity and cooperation among developing countries on the basis of collective self-reliance and other unique strategies and tactics in the anti-imperialist struggle indicated by the chuche idea have served as an immortal banner that vigorously inspires the revolutionary people to the struggle for thwarting the imperialists' aggressive and belligerent moves and checking their arbitrariness.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il has performed undying feats in the cause of constantly increasing the might of the chuche idea as the guiding idea of the time by defending the great idea with tireless creative ideological and theoretical activities and steadily developing and enriching it with new principles and propositions, concludes the article.

Daily Stresses Implementing New Year's Tasks

SK1201065792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 10 Jan 92

[NODONG SINMUN 10 January editorial: "Let Us More Vigorously Kindle the Flames of the Great Revolutionary Upsurge"]

[Text] We are given the honorary task of vigorously kindling the flames of the great revolutionary upsurge on all fronts of the socialist construction and upholding the programmatic tasks put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his new year address. The year 1992 will be very significant in the history of our people's protracted and glorious revolutionary struggle. All of the working people throughout the country, including our heroic working class infinitely loyal to the party and the leader, are brimming with verve to glorify this year as a year of brilliant victory.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We should create a new upsurge in socialist construction by mobilizing all the party, all the nation, and all the people. Therefore, we should mark this significant year as a year of the most brilliant victory in the history of our fatherland.

Effecting an endless upsurge in socialist construction by vigorously kindling the great revolutionary upsurge is the traditional struggle of our people. The struggle has been constantly displayed under our party's leadership. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song mixed with the Kangson working class in the most arduous era after the war. He kindled the flame of the Chollima great upsurge, which has been an historic turning point for our revolution and construction by mobilizing and inspiring the working class.

The proud history of the Chollima great upsurge has been continuously maintained as the history of a speedy battle under the tested leadership of dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Our country's socialist construction has been embroidered with the history of the great revolutionary upsurge.

The enormous revolutionary tasks assigned to us this year and the prevailing atmosphere demand that we glorify the tradition of the great revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction and that we are more innovative and exploitive in all fields of the national economy.

As the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward in his New Year address, the direction that we should follow in socialist construction is that we should more firmly establish chuche in all fields, including politics, economy, and culture, by vigorously carrying out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural. By so doing, we should actively meet the rapidly changing situation.

We should continuously implement the line of constructing and independent national economy. Therefore, we should strengthen the national economic strength and successfully resolve the issue of food, clothing, housing of the people in conformity with socialist requirements.

It is time to mobilize the party, the nation, and all of the people; effect a great revolutionary upsurge again; win more success in socialist construction; and strengthen the main forces of our revolution by all means. The most important thing in more vigorously kindling the great revolutionary upsurge is that functionaries and the working people further cherish the faith that they will uphold the party's leadership.

The history of our country's socialist construction has shone as the great revolutionary upsurge. This is due to the heroic struggle of our workers and working people who have implemented whatever the party and the leader may demand, under the wise leadership of the party and the leader.

The Kangson working class cherished deep in their minds the great leader's call even in the most arduous era of tribulations after the war: If we had more 10,000 tons of steel materials, the national economy would be revitalized. They produced 120,000 tons of steel materials from rolling machines capable of producing only 60,000 tons of steel materials. Thus, they effected the Chollima great upsurge and unfolded the new history of creations on this land.

We should follow our working class's example of infinite loyalty during the era of the Chollima great upsurge. We should again highly demonstrate the might of our party and the chuche-oriented Korea by doing heroic exploits in the struggle to glorify this year.

Our party is the great organizer and guide leading our people's revolutionary struggle to victory. Our people have been proud, continuously making innovations and achieving upsurges in socialist construction under our party's wise leadership. Our people have had the faith that upholding our party's leadership is the road leading to victory and prosperity.

All functionaries and working people should be more firmly obliged and determined to glorify our party's leadership through their practical success, like the Kangson working class who effected the Chollima great upsurge by producing steel materials, while upholding the great leader.

What is important in vigorously kindling the flames of the great revolutionary upsurge is that functionaries and the working class live and work with the spirit and vigor of the era of the Chollima great upsurge after the war. The working class throughout the country, including the working class of Kangson and Nagwon, performed a surprising miracle of resolutely defending and safeguarding the line and policy of the party in the face of obstructive maneuvers of the conservatives, in the era of the Chollima great upsurge.

As the working class did in the era of the Chollima great upsurge, all functionaries and working people should have a spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality toward the party's policy. They should ideologically rise up to the struggle and display all wisdom and energy to create a new great upsurge.

Only when our functionaries and working people advance with the spirit of the speedy battle joined to the Chollima can they embroider the year of 1992 with heroic exploits and miracles. Our heroic working class and working people had confidence in their own strength and displayed the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance even on the ruins after the war. Thus, they have established a socialist industry state on this land out of nothing through production and conservation.

Our struggle to create a great upsurge is also for producing and constructing more by more properly using the existing economic foundation. If all the people rise up with the spirit and vigor of the era of the Chollima great upsurge, they can make innovations and perform miracles anywhere.

As the great leader teaches in his New Year address, all functionaries and working people should display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude; manufacture what is nonexistent and seek out more of what is in short supply; find and mobilize every inner reserve; and contintually make innovations and perform miracle in production and construction.

The reserves for production lie in the revolutionary enthusiasm and creativity of the producing masses. Functionaries should promote the work of finding reserves and the work of production and conservation through the method of inspiring the ideology of the producing masses. They should firmly turn this work into the work of the masses.

What is important in vigorously kindling the flames of the great revolutionary upsurge is that functionaries and the working people should be performing feats and making innovations in their revolutionary posts.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has clearly put forward in his New Year address the militant tasks that should be implemented this year in each area of the national economy, including power industry, coal industry, and railway transportation.

Only when all fields and units struggle to implement without fail the militant tasks put forward by the party can the great upsurge in socialist construction be achieved. The heroic spirit and feats of our party members and working people should be demonstrated in their devoted struggle to implement without fail the militant tasks by the day, by the month, by the quarter, and by the indicators which the party put forward.

The party members and the working people, who have defended the key areas of the national economy, should bear in mind that only when they further produce and transport electricity and coal can the national economy in general be briskly developed. They should normalize production at a high level by continuously making technological innovations, reinforcing facilities, and commanding militant organizations.

Functionaries and the working people participating in major construction programs should exhibit patriotic devotion and masses-oriented heroism with honor and pride in building an ever-lasting country. They should implement without fail their resolution pledged to the party.

In particular, functionaries and builders participating in construction of 50,000 homes in capital should have great pride and awareness in implementing the party's intention and plan. They should make every effort to expedite the construction to provide citizens in the capital with brilliant homes in this significant year. By so doing, they will give great pleasure and satisfaction to the great leader and to our party.

Functionaries and the working people in light industry should produce better quality people's consumer goods, including clothes to improve the people's life, and provide them to the people.

Deeply grasping the party's intention to grown bumper crops this year, the party members and the working people in the rural economy should decisively increase agricultural production.

It is important for the party organizations at every level to promote organizational and political work to create a new great upsurge in socialist construction. Struggle to create a new great upsurge in socialist construction is an important task for strengthening the national political and economic might, by promoting construction with the spirit of the speedy battle joined to the Chollima under the party's leadership. Party organizations at every level should put great party-minded efforts into this work. They should use various forms and methots to vigorously promote the propaganda and agitation work to inspire the people into making innovations and performing feats.

The party organizations should lead everyone to perform greater feats by widely introducing and propagandizing innovative successes effected in militant sites of socialist construction. In addition, they should widely organize the work of generalizing the noble struggle traits and example, shown by the heroes in the era of the great Chollima upsurge. This should positively encourage and inspire all party members and working people to be heroes of the times and to perform feats that will touch the entire country, as the heroes did in the era of the great Chollima upsurge.

Only when the party, the nation, and all of the people are mobilized and effect a greater upsurge in production and construction can the history of the revolutionary upsurges in our country's socialist construction be constantly maintained.

Rural Communities Prepare for New Year's Farming

SK1001151592 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1501 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Pyongyang January 10 (KCNA)—Effective farming preparations for the new year, a year of put-greater-efforts-into-agriculture, are making headway in rural communities of Korea.

According to data available at the Agricultural Commission, agricultural working people in different places of the country produced 2,065,000 tons of manure during the first five days of the new year. And they carried 3.12 million tons of manure, or 1.4 times that in the like period last year, out to the fields.

The agricultural working people in South Hwanghae Province produced 270,000 tons of manure and carried some 758,000 tons to fields in the same period. The province has produced 97.6 percent of manure for the yearly farming.

In South Pyongan Province, nearly the whole amount of manure for the yearly farming has been secured. These days more than 100,000 tons of manure are being carried out to fields.

Rural communities put big efforts into preparations of materials of cold-beds for rice seedlings. Straw fences 1.2 times as much as that in the like period last year have been secured and wooden supports and bow-shape sticks prepared in large quantities.

South Hamgyong Province has prepared 94.7 percent of the planned wooden supports.

Rural communities are now making full preparations for the yearly farming, storing enough water at reservoirs, readjusting and supplementing irrigation facilities and hastening irrigation canal projects currently under way.

KCNA Reviews Pyongyang Press for 11 Jan

SK1101051792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang January 11 (kcna)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a message of greetings sent by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C] of the Workers' Party of Korea, to H.S. Surjeet upon his election as general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Appearing in the daily is news that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received messages from the presidents of Palestine and Cote d'Ivoire in reply to his messages of greetings on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the start of the revolution in Palestine and the national day of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.

Papers carry a message of greetings to the great leader President Kim Il-song from Ludo Martens, chairman of the C.C., the Belgian Labour Party, on the new year and report New Year's cards came to him from different countries.

Given in the press are accounts of mass rallies held in provinces to carry through the tasks set forth by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

Papers carry a statement issued by the chairman of the C.C., the Union of Agricultural Working People of korea in support of the policy of national reunification laid down in his New Year address and world public reaction to it.

Papers carry messages of greetings to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from foreign party leaders on his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and report that congratulatory messages and letters came to him and a meeting was held in Egypt in this connection.

Appearing in papers is a joint communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the Ukraine.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for a productive upswing in the coal industry.

Papers report about preparations for New Year's farming and massive housing construction in urban and rural districts.

Under the title "Emotional Scene of True Loyal Subject and Faithful Servant of the People" NODONG SINMUN introduces the newly released two-part Korean feature film "The Filial Daughter". The film emotionally shows boundless loyalty to the party and the leader, spirit of devoted service for to the people, and the revolutionary trait of setting practical examples and self-reliance and hard struggle displayed by twice labour heroine Chong Chun-sil, director of the Chonchon County Commercial Management office of Chagang Province, in her work and life.

The paper runs articles stressing that great national unity must be achieved in the spirit of national independence in order to accelerate the historical cause of national reunification and that the South Korean authorities must implement the North-South agreement.

The press informs the readers of the unending war exercises against the DPRK staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets under various names from the beginning of the year.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is an information of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland denouncing the South Korean authorities for taking the road of inciting North-South confrontation and suppressing the reunification movement.

South Korean news of the press includes reports that the South Korean people are calling for the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear free, peace zone and that factional conflicts within the "Democratic Liberal Party" have reached a head-on collision over the issue of "presidential candidacy".

A commentary of NODONG SINMUN denounces Israel's deportation of Palestinian patriots and the daily conveys foreign public voices against the deportation.

Papers report that Israel invaded Lebanon and the Lebanese president demanded an unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops.

It is reported in the press that the prime minister of Malaysia criticized the U.S. opposition to the plan for founding an East Asia economic committee and the German paper SUDDEUTCHE ZEITUNG branded Bush's tour of Japan as a mendicant trip.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article titled "Truman, Igniter of the Korean War".

KCNA Reviews NODONG SINMUN for 13 Jan

SK1301060292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang January 13 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today says that the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song was reported by foreign mass media and he received congratulatory messages and letters from different countries on the new year.

It is reported in the daily that a national meeting of Korean activists in Japan was held in Tokyo to carry out the 1992 tasks more successfully in response to the New Year's teachings of President Kim Il-song and Afghan social organisations sent letters to their Korean counterparts, supporting the policy of national reunification set forth by him in his New Year address.

Appearing in the daily are messages of greetings to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent by Herving Chung, chairman of the Caribbean National Movement, and Alberto Moreno, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Communist Party of Peru (Red Motherland), in congratulation of his election as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army and news that Sitaram Yechury, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), called a press conference in this connection and that foreign mass media reported about it.

The Bangladeshi paper NATUN BANGLA [as received] carried Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "*Our Socialism Centred on the Masses Shall Not Perish*" and the Egyptian paper AL-SIYASSI [as received] introduced the short history of his revolutionary activities, according to the daily.

The daily informs the readers that a joint communique on the opening of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Turkmenia was signed in Moscow on January 10.

Given in the daily is a report that the Ukrainian president met with the DPRK ambassador to the Russian Federation.

Econews of the daily includes reports about great achievements made in various domains of the national economy including the Kim Chong-tae electric locomotive complex.

Figuring large in the daily is an article introducing experience of Cho Myong-suk, agitator of the Sinsong Cooperative Farm of Kumya County in South Hamgyong Province who has led farmers to work with loyalty and filial devotion to the party and the leader.

Appearing in the daily is a statement of the C.C., the South Korean National Democratic Front branding Bush's trip to South Korea as a challenge to the entire fellow countrymen who aspire after peace and reunification.

It carries an article stressing that the discontinuation of the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises was the result of the DPRK's peace-loving policy and consistent efforts, and reactions of working people to the ceasing of the joint military exercises.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities staged a joint air strike exercise and aerial espionage against the North, according to the daily.

It reports that Comrades Jiang Zemin and Li Peng respectively had talks with Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social Democratic Party, on a visit to China, Comrade Raul Castro said in his speech at a funeral ceremony for the combatants who were killed by Cuban counterrevolutionary elements that the United States is to blame for the murder, and the president of India called for developing the economy by itself.

TASS reported a statement made by a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry on nuclear inspection, the Swedish magazine RIKTPUNKT [as received] exposed that the United States unleashed the Korean war by abusing the U.N. flag and the Afghan paper ANIS carried an article demanding the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the daily says.

An article of the daily stresses that a comprehensive and fair solution to the Mideast problem entirely depends on Israel's attitude.

South Korea

Yi Sang-ok Expects U.S.-DPRK Contact Soon

SK1101024692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0230 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—The United States plans to have a vice minister-level contact with North Korea on nuclear issues "in the very near future," Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said Saturday.

Yi said he expected to be informed of the results of the contact while he was in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20-23 to attend an international conference on economic support for the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"We are as yet unable to confirm reports from Japan that Kim Yong-sun, the North Korean Workers (Communist) Party Official in charge of international affairs, will meet with U.S. Government officials on Jan. 20," he said.

South Korea and the United States have been consulting from last year on a North Korea-U.S. contact, the foreign minister said in a weekly news conference.

The planned meeting was separate from the regular counselor-level contacts between Pyongyang and Washington in Beijing and would be restricted to nuclear issues, he said.

"A time and place for the meeting has not yet been set, but we will announce the details at an appropriate time," he said.

The foreign minister said he plans to meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Jan. 21 in Washington for talks on the U.S.-North Korea contact on nuclear issues and on follow-up measures to the recent summit between President No Tae-u and U.S. President George Bush.

Ministry sources said the North Korea-U.S. contact was to take place around that time, possibly before the meeting.

During Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's visit Jan. 16-18, Yi said, correcting the lop-sided trade deficit in Tokyo's favor would be the primary issue.

"The time has come for Japan to express the political will to solve this problem," he said.

Miyazawa would address the problem of "comfort girls," women abducted as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers during World War II, Yi said.

The Japanese Government maintains it has found no evidence of direct government involvement in the practice.

Ministry officials said Miyazawa would cover the issue "in great depth" in his address to the National Assembly and an "appropriate response" from Tokyo would soon follow.

Asked if the Korean Government would take formal action regarding compensation for the comfort girls, the foreign minister said it would first need to have the truth.

"Government action will be determined after the truth is revealed," Yi told the press conference.

On the prospects for North Korea-Japan diplomatic improvement, Yi said Tokyo must wait and confirm Pyongyang's sincerity in carrying out the inter-Korean agreements on reconciliation and a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

Seoul and Washington similarly agreed that North Korea must sign a nuclear safeguards accord, accept outside inspection and abide by the inter-Korean agreements before the United States would upgrade contact level with North Korea, he said.

"Once these obligations are met, the United States will make various overtures in improving ties with North Korea," he said.

Observers have been pointing out that moves by the United States to meet North Korean officials outside of regular Beijing talks is acceptance of Pyongyang's demands for direct talks with the United States on inter-Korean nuclear issues.

"The vice minister-level contact is not a negotiation. It is a channel to relay Washington's clear position on the North Korean nuclear problem, to relay the position directly to the North Korean leadership without an intermediator," Yi said.

Premier Signs Inter-Korean Nuclear Agreement

SK1301023992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0222 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—Prime Minister Chong Won-sik signed the inter-Korean nuclear-free declaration Monday with a call on North Korea to honor the spirit of the document.

The declaration, initialed Dec. 31, was a first step toward implementing the inter-Korean agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression, exchange and cooperation signed here Dec. 13, he said.

Present for the signing were Kim Chong-hwi, presidential secretary for diplomacy and national security, Yim Tong-won, vice national unification minister, and Yi Tong-pok, spokesman for the South Korean delegation to the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks.

The declaration will take effect upon exchanging copies in Pyongyang on Feb. 19, the second day of the sixth inter-Korean prime ministers' talks.

Before the exchange, however, several steps must be taken.

First, the document signed by Chong will be exchanged for one signed by Chong's North Korean counterpart Yon Hyong-muk at the truce village of Panmunjom on Jan. 14. The prime ministers will sign these copies Jan. 20 and exchange them again on Jan. 21.

The six-point declaration states that South and North Korea will not test, manufacture, produce, accept, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons. It calls for the use of nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes, renouncement of nuclear reprocessing facilities and enrichment plants and pilot inspections of suspect nuclear installations by both sides.

South and North Korea will discuss specific measures to implement the declaration at a meeting of the joint nuclear control committee, which is to be formed within one month after the declaration takes effect.

Defense Minister Criticizes Team Spirit Halt

SK1201003992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] It is too early for South Korea and the United States to consider scrapping their joint military exercise Team Spirit indefinitely just because South and North Korea concluded an accord on reconciliation and nonaggression, Defense Minister Choe Sae-chang said yesterday.

In a meeting with reporters, the top defense official observed that Seoul and Washington had decided to suspend the 16-year-old Team Spirit exercise this year to help boost the mutual confidence of the two Koreas.

As yet, it is too early to decide to totally rescind the Team Spirit exercise, Choe said, adding how the

Pyongyang regime responds to the decision by Seoul remains the "crucial point in the case."

Touching on the U.S. military presence on the Korean peninsula, the minister warned against inadvertent discussions of reckless and hasty withdrawal of American troops from South Korea.

He stressed that the annual ROK-U.S. military training maneuvers and the American military presence are based on the mutual defense treaty between the two countries.

Any changes whatsoever in the defense policy need time he explained, adding that conclusion of the inter-Korean agreement did not mean a complete end to the antagonistic relations between Seoul and Pyongyang.

Minister Choe also said that he would place emphasis on promotion of better and closer civilian-military relations in pushing ahead with defense policy.

NUB Previews Inter-Korean Trade, Contacts

SK1101070192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0605 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—Two-way trade between South and North Korea totaled 189.671 million U.S. dollars last year and 412 people crossed the land border between the two halves of the divided Korean peninsula, the National Unification Board (NUB) said Saturday.

Sales to the North amounted to 25.637 million dollars and goods ranged from plastic and white sugar to polyester, while purchases from the North totaled 164.034 million dollars, mostly zinc, cement and agricultural products, according to NUB statistics.

The government approved 685 contacts with North Koreans, 222 of which were realized, and people crossed the land border on 13 occasions, according to the NUB.

Inter-Korean contacts included 19 for reunions, nine for academic exchanges, seven for cultural affairs, 15 for economic matters and four for tourism and transportion.

During the year, 175 North Koreans visited the South and 237 South Koreans visited the North.

Daewoo Chairman Selected as Trade 'Conduit'

SK1201114292 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 9 Jan 92 p 7

[Text] The government is planning to make economic cooperation between the South and the North tangible at an early date. It was learned that the government plans to promote economic cooperation with the North by designating Kim Wu-chung as an actual channel from the beginning stage, however. Such a planned designation aims at preventing excessive competition among our business firms and the lowering of the North's confidence in our establishments.

Thus, the Mt. Kumgang development project and other projects, which Chong Chu-yong visited North Korea in person and agreed to undertake under Hyundai Business Group's initiative, are likely to be null and void.

A person concerned in the financial circles says: "Since the South-North basic agreement was signed, there has been no central channel in promoting private economic cooperation which can make the progress of South-North relations effectively visible." He also added: "I understand that the government's need to put the economic cooperation on stream concretely and the North's good feeling toward Kim Wu-chung made for interaction, prompting the government to approve Chairman Kim as a conduit for economic cooperation with the North."

The person concerned said that due to a request in accordance with consultations among our governmental agencies, the North side appointed a vice premier of the State Administration Council as Chairman Kim's negotiation partner. Kim will visit the North on 15 January.

The government has studied ways to prevent damage to South-North mutual confidence due to excessive competition among our business firms and reckless investment commitments. In addition, the government has restricted the business firms' arbitrary announcements for promoting their projects.

In contrast to this, Chairman Kim has consulted with the government on his plan to visit the North from the mailing stage of the North's letter of invitation. Regarding his planned activities during his visit to the North, Chairman Kim met with Choe Ho-chung, deputy prime minister and minister of the National Unification Board, and had extensive discussions. Thus Chairman Kim's plan to visit the North is interpreted as the one reflecting the government's will.

In his interview with reporters on 6 January, Chairman Kim stressed: "The South-North economic exchange should not aim at one side's unilateral interest. It should be motivated by a sense of mission, by which one lays a stepping stone for reunification." He also revealed that the successful promotion of economic cooperation will be able to alleviate some people's distrust toward the progress of South-North relations.

The government and Chairman Kim plan to make the results of his visit to the North public and to give opportunities for joint participation to the firms which seek investment.

Government To Increase DPRK Cooperation Fund

SK1101100992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0953 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—The government plans to increase the inter-Korean cooperation fund to about 100 billion won (131.75 million U.S. dollars) from the current 62.8 billion won, a government source said Saturday.

The decision was based on the view that bilateral cooperation between South and North Korea would be expanded once the inter-Korean agreement on basic relations concluded on Dec. 13 was put into effect, the source said.

The government would revise guidelines for operating the fund to the effect that financial support be limited to joint venture projects that are thought to be essential for balanced industrial development between the two Koreas.

As for bilateral trade, the government will set higher standards for eligible beneficiaries of the fund and seek to provide concerned businesses with loans instead of compensating them for the losses incurred by the trade, the source said.

The government will continue to finance, partly or fully, such non-profit projects as cultural, academic and sports exchanges, he said.

"If the inter-Korean agreement goes into effect, the economic exchanges and cooperative business projects will be pushed ahead actively," the source said. "Some measures are needed to prevent unnecessary competition among enterprises," he added.

South-North Joint Ventures Highlight Cooperation

SK1101133492 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 10 Jan 92 p 6

[Article by reporter Choe Yong-yol]

[Text] North-South economic cooperation is bearing fruit in the form of North Korea producing socks using South Korean-made production equipment and producing bags with South Korean raw materials and North Korean technology. Last year, Kolon Corporation sent equipment to North Korea, produced socks there, and exported them to Europe. This was the first North-South joint venture. This venture recently made sports bags for students at a bag manufacturing plant near Pyongyang, and those bags arrived in Pusan port and are waiting for customs clearance.

Kolon Corporation supplied North Korea with sock manufacturing equipment, received socks in return, and exported them to Europe. It used this buy-back formula for the first time last year. It was learned that North Korean-made socks are popular in European markets because they are quality goods.

Kolon Corporation sent bag samples and raw materials to a bag manufacturing plant near Pyongyang and produced 4,000 bags there. They are waiting for customs clearance in Pusan port. This shows that North Korea's bag manufacturing skill has reached a certain level.

Upon the bags clearing customs, Kolon will sell them at its retail outlets in South Korea at normal prices.

The production of bags, the first such combination of South Korean raw materials and North Korean production skills, is more an experiment than a full-scale production.

This is because Kolon did not build a plant in North Korea and because the quantity involved was small.

A Kolon official said: "The samples which North Korea sent us were better in quality than our products made in Southeast Asia." He also said: "We will decide whether we will place additional orders after inspecting the quality of the bags." It was learned that Kolon Corporation had not placed additional orders.

It was learned that on behalf of Kolon Corporation, a Hong Kong businessman who has links to Kolon's Hong Kong office, made initial contacts with North Korea and that North Korea rejected Kolon's offer to send its technicians to North Korea.

The North Korean bag manufacturing plant, which is located near Pyongyang, once manufactured bags and exported them to Germany, Poland, and other European countries, and its technological standard is relatively high.

It took five months for the North Korean plant to deliver finished goods, while it takes approximately four months for plants in Southeast Asia to do so. This is a problem.

The bags produced by North Korea have been waiting for customs clearance at Pusan port for 20 days, because not all the necessary export documents arrived. This is also a problem. Those bags left Nampo port in early December and were transshipped on the Hanjin Chungmu, a South Korean-registered boat. Their customs clearance has been delayed because their certificate of origin was incomplete.

Upon the arrival of the documents from Hong Kong, the North Korean-made bags will clear customs late this month, at the latest.

A Kolon official in charge of economic cooperation with North Korea said: "Just like South Koreans, North Koreans are dexterous and eager to work. So, prospects for this type of production are good." He also said: "Kolon will gradually increase the volume."

It is strongly speculated that because of North Korea's delivery delays, shortages of production of facilities, and other risks the volume of joint production will not increase drastically for the time being and that Kolon will place few orders.

PRC Boats Violate Cheju Territorial Waters

Boats Seized

SK1101121092 Seoul YONHAP in English 1201 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Cheju, South Korea, Jan. 11 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Cheju Maritime Police are hauling four 200-ton level Chinese vessels after capturing them on charges of illegal fishing on the South Korean territorial waters to Cheju port, police said Saturday evening.

The Chinese vessels were captured by the police patrol boats at a point some 19.8 kilometers southwest of northern Cheju Island at 5:50 P.M, it was announced.

Seventy other Chinese ships fled to the international waters as the police started seizing operation at 5 P.M. Saturday, according to the police.

The captured vessels are likely to arrive at Cheju port at around 1 A.M. Sunday.

Several hundreds of Chinese vessels have occasionally fished near or in the Korean territorial waters since December, causing a friction between South Korea and China, which do not have diplomatic relations with each other.

Skippers Arrested

SK1301105192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1030 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Cheju, South Korea, Jan. 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—Skippers of the four Chinese trawlers which were seized by the local maritime police here Saturday were arrested Monday on charges of violating the South Korean territorial waters.

The four included Zhang Guo-quan, 48, and Jiang Siru, 41, both from Shanghai.

Their boats were hauled to Cheju port after being captured by the Cheju Maritime Police at a point some 13.5 kilometers (7.5 miles) southwest of Cheju Island, or 8.1 kilometers into the South Korean territorial waters, Saturday afternoon.

The vessels were engaged in illegal fishing there along with 80 other Chinese boats, police said.

Reactions Continue on No Tae-u 10 Jan Briefing

Papers' Editorials Compared

SK1101095892

[Editorial report] Seven South Korean daily vernacular newspapers carry 11 January editorials on ROK President No Tae-u's New Year news conference on 10 January.

CHOSON ILBO, a middle-of-the-road daily, carries an 1,800-word editorial on page 3 entitled "President's News Conference." As for No Tae-u's avoidance in naming the Democratic Liberal Party's (DLP) presidential candidate, the editorial says: "As a result of the decision to select the DLP presidential candidate after the general elections, we, the people, will participate in 'faceless general elections.' Also, we worry that this will aggravate the party's internal division and feud."

The editorial calls for discussions in the National Assembly through legal and reasonable procedures the postponement of regional elections, saying: "The 'timetable' on which those regional elections are scheduled to be held in the first half of this year is what the ruling and opposition parties agreed on and what is stipulated in the law. Therefore, the president cannot overturn this timetable."

After asking the president to disclose the details of the donations he received, the editorial says: "Otherwise, no one will trust the government of the Sixth Republic." Referring to the president's economic recovery program, the editorial says that it must not hamper economic efficiency, adding: "We must not only stabilize wages, resolve manpower shortages, and improve the system of interest rates and the monetary flow to restrain the increase of the overall demands but we also must continuously execute the tight management of the treasury and restrain the overheated unproductive service and construction sectors."

HANGUK ILBO, a moderate newspaper, carries an 800-word editorial on page 2 entitled "Selection of a Presidential Candidate Shrouded in Mist." The editorial says that No Tae-u's avoidance of naming Kim Yong-sam as the DLP's presidential candidate may further widen DLP factional differences. Reiterating the principle that the DLP's candidate must be chosen in a fair competition, the editorial says that "it is desirable in our country, where party politics are implemented, for an authoritative leadership to indicate how such a selection is to be made."

SEOUL SINMUN, a pro-government newspaper, carries a 1,800-word editorial on page 2 entitled "President No Tae-u's Plan To Devote Himself to Economic Recovery During the Remainder of His Term—On Seeing His New Year News Conference." The editorial asks No Tae-u to set a date for the general elections as soon as possible and says that the "people and political circles must help the president solve such economic problems as prices and the balance of international payment."

HANGYORE SINMUN, an antigovernment newspaper, carries a 2,000-word editorial on page 2 entitled "A President Who Says He Is 'Sorry for Failing To Abide By the Law'—Can We Believe the 'Firm Promises' He Made During His New Year News Conference?"

The editorial says of No Tae-u's ambiguous reference to DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam's role: "What President No Tae-u said during the news conference is a far cry from the media speculation and 'wishful thinking.'"

The editorial strongly opposes No Tae-u's postponement of the regional elections and said that the regional self-government system "can be completely implemented not only by regional assemblies but also by the democratic administration of popularly chosen heads of regional self-government units." The editorial then proposes that the three elections for this year, except for the presidential election, be held simultaneously. After calling for disclosing the truth of the political donations, the editorial concludes: "Upon seeing the New Year news conference, people must have felt uneasy, not hopeful. Some people may expect much from the president's resolve to give priority to economic recovery. However, political democratization and the resolution of economic conflicts are not different matters. This is what bothers us."

KYONGHYANG SINMUN, a moderate newspaper, carries an 800-word editorial on page 3 entitled "Holding Elections In Ways Not To Ruin the Economy." The editorial welcomes No Tae-u's proposed postponement of regional elections, saying: "priority must be given to the people's livelihood" and that a "political offensive saying the proposed postponement is illegal must be reconsidered."

This daily newspaper also carries an 800-word editorial on page 3 entitled "Three Preconditions for Overcoming the Crisis." The editorial says that adhering to "economic principles," executing a "tight operation of the economy," and facilitating "economic democratization" are three preconditions for economic recovery. The editorial hopes that "President No Tae-u will be able at least to start economic revival during the remainder of his term in office."

TONG-A ILBO, an independent newspaper, carries an 800-word editorial on page 3 entitled "Elections of Heads of Regional Self-Government Units Must Not Be Postponed." The editorial calls No Tae-u's promise not to revise the constitution to adopt a cabinet system during his term in office a "very wise" decision. Referring to his postponement of regional elections, the editorial says: "The postponement runs counter to the rule of law and is an act of overstepping his authority." The editorial urges him to "cancel his decision to postpone the regional elections."

This daily newspaper also carries an 800-word editorial on page 3 entitled "Controversies Over Political Donations Must Be Resolved." The editorial says, "liquidate the legacies of the authoritarian era," including political donations.

CHUNGANG ILBO, an independent newspaper, carries a 1,800-word editorial on page 3 entitled "Let Us Decide on the Postponement of Regional Elections in the General Elections—On Seeing the President's New Year News Conference." The editorial calls it "regrettable" that the president postponed the elections without discussions. After calling for a full explanation of controversies on political donations, the editorial says: "We would like to stress that judgment on all the details of President No Tae-u's news conference will be made in the upcoming general elections. In this sense, the people's cool-headed judgment and decision as masters of the state are vitally required."

Poll Shows Varied Responses

SK1101092192 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 11 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] It has been learned that President No Tae-u's decision to postpone the elections of heads of local government units is positively appraised as "good."

CHOSON ILBO jointly conducted a telephone interview with ROK Gallup Research between 1700 and 2230 on 10 December of 500 men and women above age 20 across the country, except for for Cheju Island. Asked "whether President No Tae-u's decision to postpone the elections of heads of local government units is good or wrong," 59.3 percent of the people interviewed said that it is "good"; 24.5 percent said that it is "wrong"; 7.7 percent said that "they cannot answer"; and 8.5 percent said that "they do not know."

The survey also shows that the decision to elect the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] presidential candidate through free competition is positiveiy apprised as "good" to eliminate the disputes within the party.

Asked about "President No Tae-u's decision to elect the DLP presidential candidate through free competition after the general elections is good or wrong," 51.9 percent of the respondents said this is "good," and 16.0 percent said that this is "wrong."

In the meantime, a negative view of the founding of a new party led by Chong Chu-yong, former honorary chairman of Hyundai group, is prevalent.

Asked about "what do you think about the founding of a new party by Mr. Chong Chu-yong?" 50.4 percent said that this is "wrong"; only 18.4 percent of the people interviewed said that this is "good "; 25.8 percent said that "they cannot say"; and 5.4 percent said that "they do not care."

This survey was conducted across the country with homes possessing telephones. The number of people interviewed was 248 men and 251 women.

As for the respondents' ages, 157 people were in their twenties; 131 were in their thirties; 87 were in their forties; and 125 were over fifty years.

As for the respondent's level of education, 87 people graduated from primary school; 81 graduated from middle school; 192 graduated from high school; and 144 graduated from colleges.

As for the regions of the respondents, 134 people were from Seoul; 94 were from Kyonggi Province; 19 were from Kangwon Province; 46 were from Chungchong Province; 58 were from Cholla Province; 62 were from North Kyongsang Province; and 87 were from South Kyongsang Province.

The margin of error of this survey is plus or minus 4.5 percent.

Editorial Summarizes Views

SK1101013692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Jan 92 p 8

[Editorial on No's press conference]

[Text] Political and economic concerns dominated the press conference President No Tae-u held yesterday to outline his policies and views on the state of the nation's politics and economy for 1992, his final year in office. The general tenor and content of his statements were rather subdued and devoid of grandiose rhetoric as it should be but were substantive and modest. Yet they left much to be desired in the way of clarifying some of the most sensitive issues facing the nation.

President No declared in unmistakable terms that he would not allow a setback in the vigorous push for democratization and his government would adhere to this dictate to its final days. The chief executive reassured the nation he would not seek a constitutional amendment toward another format of government, thus removing the long-lingering suspicion over the issue that has destabilized the political scene.

On another politically sensitive issue of naming the standard-bearer for the ruling Democratic Liberal Party which he concurrently heads, he carefully dismissed the possibility of naming anyone as a potential successor at this juncture. He aptly declared that his successor should be chosen in a free contest at the party's national convention to be held after the general elections, due sometime after March, in full accordance with democratic procedures provided by the party charter.

Contrary to the reported probability that President No would make public his preferred nominee in the New Year's press conference, the president merely laid down the specifics regarding qualification of the ruling party's presidential candidate. He was more than generous in appraising the political endowment of Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the party whose faction of the former opposition Democrats had maneuvered toward Kim's selection as the party's standard-bearer before the general elections, but No cautiously avoided driving the nail home on the issue. Thus, the protracted confusion involving the naming of the government party's presidential candidate, which has led to factional feuds within the ruling party, seems to have been put to bed— at least, for the time being.

Citing the traumatic impact a plethora of elections would have on the nation's sagging economy, President No revealed his decision to defer two local autonomy elections on this year's political timetable to future dates yet to be set. He, however, devoted much time to making a strong plea for clean and orderly elections for the 14th National Assembly and the presidency, which is timely and natural. President No tersely defined any irregularities in the upcoming elections as crimes against democracy which should be dealt with rigorously for effective political development.

In the economic field we share his deep concern for price stability and trade balance, which are essential to continued growth of the nation's economy. As he pointed out, greater restraint in imports and reciprocal provisions of market access to all trading partners will be necessary to arrest inflation and keep our export industries afloat. His call for increased investments to develop the infrastructure should be translated into action without delay to uncork bottlenecks in industrial and economic growth.

Further improvement of relations with North Korea to reduce tension and promote reintegration of Korea has become a less remote possibility with a series of developments in inter-Korean relations including a dramatic compromise on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Thus, the northern policy of the Seoul Government toward Pyongyang and farther has been thrust upon No as a crucial burden as he ends his five-year tenure. Of special note was No's expression of willingness and readiness to hold summit-level talks with Kim Chong-il, the heir apparent to North Korean President Kim Il-song, should the latter prove to be the "real highest-level leader" of the North.

The consistent policy of relaxation and accommodation with regard to North Korea was reinforced by the latest decision of the Seoul Government to cancel this year's Team Spirit exercise with the United States. President No demanded reciprocal steps from Pyongyang on the internationally controversial issue involving North Korea's opening of its nuclear facilities to inspection.

In response to a reporter's question, President No cautiously admitted having received a sum from former business tycoon Chong Chu-yong but was quick to point out that the donation was out of the donor's goodwill for underprivileged people and that he money was thus used in compliance with his wish. In unequivocal terms, he said he had never asked for "political donations" from anybody.

He renewed his call for a concerted effort by all segments of society to meet the nation's challenges in environmental awareness. The chief executive promised a continued war on crime and popular drive for disciplined social order, while proposing a stepped-up fight against the malady of conspicuous consumption.

They year ahead will be a critical test of the credibility of the No administration in its final phase. The nation pins high hopes on the strength, integrity and modesty of No's leadership in building harmony and cohesion at home and reaching out for widened horizons abroad to put Korea solidly at the threshold of more affluent and vital nationhood. Given the enormity of challenges awaiting us this year, redoubled efforts and resolve are really in order.

No Faces Opposition Attack

SK1201031692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Jan 92 p 2

[From the "News in Review" column by political editor Chong Un-pyong]

[Text] President No Tae-u's New Year press conference is meaningful because it is his last one on policy. Of course, he will have another one this time next year, but it will be more like a farewell speech because his five-year term ends in February next year.

Aside from this, he revealed his grave decision to shelve mayoral and gubernatorial elections for a few years, citing the likely devastation of the economy as a reason.

A string of four elections is in store for this year, starting with the elections of lawmakers to be followed by elections of mayors and provincial governors. Toward the end of this year, presidential election is to be held.

Given past precedents, it is very natural to worry about the serious havoc the four elections might wreak upon the nation's economy, now reeling under a growing trade deficit.

After long consideration, No said he came to the conclusion that it is better to postpone the local elections.

His decision drew mixed reactions. Opposition Democratic Party led by Kim Tae-chung lost no time in denouncing No. The party is set to stage a violent protest, stirring up the people.

But economic organizations, which have long demanded postponement of the elections, welcomed the decision, calling it a decision to save the nation.

A quick poll by telephone showed about 60 percent of those polled supporting and 25 percent opposing No's decision.

No said local councils were formed last year after an absence of three decades. To elect mayors and provincial governors just one year later is too soon, compared with the examples of foreign nations.

According to him, there had been insufficient lead time for the elections of mayors and governors.

Whatever the various views, there is a legal problem on No's decision.

Aside from the fact that No breached the bipartisan agreement on holding the local elections this year, he is to face controversy on the legality of his decision.

Under the present law, the two local elections are to be held during the first half of this year. The problem is how he can circumvent the law.

No said he wants the 14th National Assembly to be formed in general elections in April to amend the law to make No's decision legal.

Here is something more than meets the eye. Not a small number of people suspect that the real reason for the postponement of the local elections is not economic, but that the ruling party's presidential candidate will stand less chance of winning if the local elections are pushed through as provided by the law.

Those harboring such suspicion argue that not a small number of opposition figures will be elected to the mayors replacing appointed mayors.

Then ruling camp will feel left in the wilderness overnight, unlike the past when it was greatly helped by the administrative network.

The same people claim that it is not so much for democracy as for the party's chance in the presidential election that the opposition party strongly oppose the suspension of the local elections.

With regards to the nomination of the ruling party's presidential candidate, No's remarks are flat, but smartly fall in with the basic principle of democracy.

"There will be no prior designation of a certain figure. It is an insult not only to the person but to the party. Such practice is the remnant of the past authoritarian rule. A presidential candidate will be elected through a fair and free competition at the national convention of the party."

Then, he did not forget to praise executive chairman Kim Yong-sam. No said Kim has struggled for democracy throughout his long political career, which he values.

It is anybody's guess whether the remarks are indicative of his support for Kim as presidential candidate or a kind of political sop to keep "recalcitrant" Kim in the saddle.

Kim's followers had threatened to break with the party if Kim is not nominated as the presidential candidate at an early convention before the elections of lawmakers.

Since No did not throw his support to any party leaders, tough and long factional infighting is in store.

Another issue that drew public attention is No admitted to having received 10 billion won from Chong Chu-yong. No said he accepted money from Chong. He went on to say that he received funds from several other businessmen.

But, in an articulate voice, he said the money was not for political use. They sent the money hoping that it be used for the needy. He said he used the money according to the wishes of the donors.

But, there will be few who give trust to his words. Whether the money is for philanthropic or political purposes, the stark fact is that No accepted money from businessmen, an action that seriously undermines the morality of the head of state.

The disbursement of money should be accounted for in order to clear up the dense fog of suspicion surrounding the incident, as no businessmen offer large amounts of money expecting nothing in return.

No's Briefing Fails To Support Kim Yong-sam

'Contrary to Expectations'

SK1101014392 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Jan 92 p 2

["News analysis" by staff reporter Kang Song-chol: "No Refrains From Grooming Kim Yong-sam as Presidential Candidate"]

[Text] Contrary to expectations by many people in and out of the ruling party, President No Tae-u refrained from making remarks that might suggest that he had decided to groom Kim Yong-sam, the party's No. 2 man, as the party's flag-bearer in the next presidential election.

Despite repeated questions regarding that particular point by reporters, No dropped no hints that he would throw support behind Kim, a former opposition leader.

Instead, he appeared to have taken sides with the anti-Kim Yong-sam factions by stressing the need to hold a party convention to pick the presidential candidate only after the parliamentary elections this spring. That was an anathema to Kim Yong-sam.

During his news conference yesterday, the president emphasized that the party should be firmly united around Kim for victory in the coming parliamentary elections. He also praised Kim as a man "who has struggled for democratization all his life."

The remarks, however, can hardly be an evidence signaling No's personal support for Kim in the presidential race.

Still, it remains to be seen whether the president would maintain neutral, while just stressing the principle of free competition.

Some observers suspected that there may be some hidden agreements between the president and Kim.

They noted that Kim looked confident Thursday night upon returning from talks with President No over the candidacy issue.

"I am fully satisfied," Kim then said. "We have reached a complete agreement on issues, including the selection of the party's presidential nominee."

By emphasizing the principle of open competition and not giving clues to whom he supports, No seems to have succeeded in calming factional feuding over the naming of the presidential nominee.

Many party members had openly voiced concerns about the possibility of the party's splitting in case the knotty candidacy question is not resolved "fairly."

As if to demonstrate that the party has overcome the latest factional wrangling, the party's three chairmen showed up at the news conference and sat side by side. They were absent from No's New Year's news conference last year.

Their peaceful gestures may be only temporary, however.

Factional disputes may erupt any time soon as long as differences exist over who should represent the party in the presidential election to be held toward the end of this year.

The strength of the factions will face an acid test in the coming parliamentary elections. Competition is expected to be fierce over alloting the number of nominees among factions.

The number of incumbent lawmakers of each faction will be a key factor in determining its chance of winning the presidential nomination.

Expectations are that it would be extremely difficult for the rival factions to distribute the parliamentary nominees to the satisfaction of them all.

Kim Opponents Welcome Decision

SK1101010692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], emerging from President No Tae-u's news conference yesterday, stressed mutual confidence between him and the president.

"What is important (at this moment) is mutual confidence," Kim said. "The president trusts me, and I trust him."

Kim made the remark when asked to comment on No's stance on the ruling party's presidential nomination. No told the New Year's news conference that the party will elect its presidential candidate after the parliamentary elections. Kim and his followers had demanded a national convention before the elections to pick the presidential nominee.

Kim said that from now on he will exert all his efforts to enable his party to gain a comfortable majority in the National Assembly elections slated for March or April.

Kim's opponents in the DLP welcomed No's statement that a national convention will choose the presidential candidate through free competition.

"We welcome the president's clear-cut stance on the political schedule," said DLP Rep. O You-pang. O belongs to a group led by Yi Chong-chan, who has pursued free competition in choosing the party's flag-bearer in the presidential election expected late this year.

Meanwhile, opposition leader Kim Tae-chung asserted that the news conference left Kim Yong-sam with no improvements in his chances.

The news conference held little significance as far as Kim Yong-sam's fortunes are concerned, the opposition leader said. "It provided no specific guarantees that the executive chairman will gain the nomination."

Kim Followers Have 'Jitters'

SK1201034092 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Jan 92 p 2

["News analysis" by staff reporter Kim Chong-chan]

[Text] Many followers of Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the faction-ridden ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], appear to have the jitters since President No Tae-u Friday failed to give clear signs that he would groom Kim as the party's next presidential candidate.

Many DLP lawmakers loyal to Kim, a former opposition leader and now No. 2 man in the party, rushed to the home of their mentor after No's "embarrassing" news conference.

"None of our demands have been met (by President No)," most of the visitors said upon arrival at Kim's house. Among them were Reps. Kang Sam-chae, So Chong-won and Kim U-sok.

Rep. Kang grumbled that "something is going wrong."

Another lawmaker close to Kim snapped, "No's comment fell short of our expectations."

But 64-year-old Kim tried to mollify them. "Do not worry," the executive chairman was quoted as telling his supporters.

Explaining that he and some of his close aides had held serious negotiations on the party's presidential candidacy with the presidential office, Kim stressed "mutual confidence" between him and President No.

Kim, who led a merger with No's party about two years ago, visited the President at Chongwadae last Tuesday to discuss the presidential nomination, amid fierce intraparty feuding over the issue. The meeting lasted as long as three hours, his aides said.

The following day, Kim's archrivals, Co-chairmen Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun, separately met with President No at the presidential office.

Some lieutenants of Kim Yong-sam, meantime, were still optimistic about the possibility of Kim winning the nomination.

Rep. Sin Kyong-sik, chief of staff to the executive chairman, noted that No told the news conference that Kim would manage the parliamentary elections as "the center of the DLP in cooperation with the two co-chairmen."

The legislative elections are expected in March or April.

Besides, Rep. Sin said Kim appeared pleased upon returning from Thursday's talks with President No and the two co-chairmen.

"I am fully satisfied. We have reached a complete agreement on the knotty issue," Kim told reporters.

Rep. Choe Hyong-u, state minister for political affairs who is a long-time aide to Kim, said that President No may take steps gradually to enhance Kim's status.

Rep. Kim Tok-yong, another close aide to the executive chairman, said he is confident that his boss will win the nomination.

"I understand that President No has made a decision on the candidacy issue (in favor of Kim) long ago," said the lawmaker who held behind-the-scene talks with senior presidential aides until recently.

The Kim Yong-sam faction had called for selection of the presidential nominee ahead of the parliamentary elections.

Kim and his cohorts, believing that delay of the nomination would strip Kim of his chances of securing the candidacy, had often threatened to bolt the party en masse if Kim failed to win the nomination before the legislative elections.

Kim, who leads the DLP's second largest faction, had been soliciting President No's backing as the party's flag-bearer.

But Kim's opponents in the party had demanded that nomination of the standard-bearer be held after the legislative elections, though they have yet to come up with their own presidential hopeful.

As it has become known, No made a decision against the former opposition leader.

Kim Yong-sam, meanwhile, said in Thursday's Chongwadae meeting, he first suggested that the DLP's flag-bearer be picked in free contest. "It is my belief that the candidate should be chosen through open competition," he told reporters.

Kim Chong-pil, on the other hand, snubbed the allegation that there may be some hidden agreements between the President and Kim Yong-sam.

Editorial Underlines Significance

SK1101011292 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 11 Jan 91 p 6

[Editorial: "President's New Year Press Conference"]

[Text] President No Tae-u has made it clear that during the remaining period of his term he will devote himself to the restoration of the nation's shaky economy, leaving political issues in the hands of politicians.

However, the most interesting subjects during his new year's press conference yesterday were none other than the political issues of the naming of the ruling party's presidential candidate and the timing of general elections.

He stated that the general elections will be held after March and that executive chairman Kim Yong-sam will guide the ruling party in a successful election campaign. And then he further indicated that the ruling party will convene its party congress to nominate the presidential candidate after the election of the National Assembly.

President No's decision to choose Kim Yong-sam to be the central leader of the ruling party during the crucial election year has been seen by many observers as a significant indication of his personal preference for Kim and a factor which will no doubt affect the outcome of the party convention.

At least for now all factions within the ruling party seem to have come to understand and agree to the decisions made by the party president.

President No further clarified his position on the sensitive political issue of a constitutional amendment to introduce the parliamentary cabinet system and restructure the fundamental political system of the nation. He stated he will definitely not seek any such action during his term, and we now hope this will end long-standing speculation on the politically motivated amendment to the nation's basic law.

During the president's press conference he made clear many issues unclear to the public, giving them more hope than despair, but his decision to postpone the local elections to choose heads of local governments will have disappointed many.

Governments in the past have promised time after time the full implementation of local autonomy but have betrayed the public as many times as they have promised. President No's government can now be added to the list. And the task of completing elections for local autonomy has been left to the next regime to deal with. Once again the government has turned its back on the people and betrayed their trust.

It is hoped that President No will help in bringing back public trust in the government and the political leadership in his last year as the president. This way when he leaves office, he will be well remembered and more importantly the nation will be in better shape than it is now.

No's Post-Briefing Comments Show Support of Kim

Urges DLP Unity Under Kim

SK1101070992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0651 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Saturday that the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], in order to win the general elections, will nominate candidates regardless of which faction they belong to.

In an apparent bid for solidarity, No told party executives that "from this moment on" they should end factional meetings and actions. The party would resolutely deal with anyone who made any remark or took any action harmful to party unity, he warned.

No, who is president of the DLP, made the warning at a meeting attended by executive chairman Kim Yong-sam, co-chairmen Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun, office-holders and other key members of the party at Chongwadae Saturday morning.

Kim Yong-sam was not just a leader of a faction but of the party, No said.

"I believe he could effectively lead the party by situating himself in the center of the party," No said.

No said he would make the final decisions on the party's political agenda, including selection of the presidential candidate, after consulting with Kim and other co-chairmen.

"It is not desirable, therefore, to get into any more wasteful and unproductive disputes," the president said.

Kim and his followers and his opponents, led by Pak and Kim Chong-pil, were engaged in a months-long factional squabble over when to name the party's presidential candidate.

President No, at his New Year press conference on Friday, put an end to the feud by declaring that the party's standard bearer would be selected in a free election at a national convention to be held after the parliamentary elections.

In a followup meeting, No instructed party leaders and functionaries to unite and start preparing for the elections under Kim's direction.

He also told party executives to try not to select candidates for election on the basis of faction, but for their ability and ethical standards as well as the possibility of their winning a seat in the National Assembly.

'Secret Pact' Rumored

SK1201003092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Jan 92 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column]

[Text] Those belonging to the Minju faction within the ruling Democratic Liberal Party led by the executive chairman Kim Yong-sam seemed to become encouraged when President No Tae-u gave rare praise to their boss during the party executive council meeting at Chongwadae (Presidential office) yesterday, presided over by No.

They expressed at first disappointment at the President's New Year's press conference in that the Chief Executive made no clear remark of grooming the executive chairman as the party flag bearer.

In the meeting No said he believes the executive chairman will lead the party as the center force and called on the party members to help Kim in the face of the parliamentary elections tentatively slated for late March.

A close confidant to Kim revealed yesterday that there might have been a secret pact between No and Kim with a view to guaranteeing the executive chairman a victory in the presidential race through a party national convention which No proclaimed will be held after the parliamentary elections.

Party co-chairman Pak Tae-chun, caretaker of the Minjong faction, seemed to be somewhat unhappy when he met with reporters at his office.

No Tae-u's Postponement of Local Elections Eyed

DP Continues Protest

SK1101065692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0555 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—The main opposition Democratic Party will protest President No Tae-u's decision to put off elections for mayors and provincial governors at every opportunity, on the floor of the National Assembly and elsewhere, party sources said Saturday.

Party co-leaders Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek will announce measures, including a petition drive, to stop cancellation of the elections, which under current law must be held in the first half of the year, in a news conference at party headquarters monday.

"We cannot suppress our shock and anger at the unilateral postponement of the elections for local administration chiefs," a statement issued by party lawmakers said. "Postponement violates the law and a promise to the people and is aimed at diverting the public's attention from the failure of economic policies and at maintaining political power. It is a challenge to democracy and a betrayal of the people."

It demanded the instant withdrawal of No's decision and the staging of all this year's elections simultaneously. General and presidential elections are also required by law this year.

The statement called on the government to declare how much it had accepted in "illegal contributions" since No was inaugurated and how the money was used.

It demanded that the prosecution investigate the donation by Hyundai Group owner Chong Chu-yong of billions of won to No, all of which No says he gave to the poor, and that the National Assembly convene an extra session to probe the contributions.

Opposition party actions may include a resolution asking for No's resignation, formation of a team to investigate political funds and anti-No rallies.

Termed 'Coup Against Democracy'

SK1201002092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] President No Tae-u's decision to put off elections of local administration chiefs and his admission of accepting huge donations will become the main topics of debate before and during Assembly electioneering as his political opponents are stepping up attacks.

The Democratic Party [DP] yesterday held a meeting of member lawmakers and executives and charted out a number of schemes to focus on the two issues in and outside the National Assembly ahead of the Assembly polls, expected in April.

Maintaining that No should appear in Assembly hearings, DP chairman Kim Tae-chung termed the presidential decision as a "coup against democracy." He further argued that the ruling camp is plotting to use the influence of the incumbent appointed mayors and governors for presidential campaigns.

Co-chairman Yi Ki-taek told the meeting that No's decision had plunged politics into an "extreme vortex," pledging "all-out efforts to reveal the power-money collusion and destroy his plot to prolong rule."

The two DP leaders will urge President No to scrap the sudden decision, in their joint New Year press conference tomorrow, their staff said.

At the close of the two-hour meeting, the opposition party formally proposed to the majority ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] the convening of an extraordinary Assembly session to deal with the matters.

If the proposal is turned down, the DP will go further to motion a bill at the legislature to recommend that No assume political and moral responsibility and resign as president.

The DP is, on the other hand, seeking alliances with dissident forces to stage out-of-Assembly struggles against the administration and its party and appeal to the electorate directly to pass "stern judgment" on the ruling camp.

One plan which the DP is considering pushing in collaboration with the dissidents is gathering signatures nationwide to press No to call the two elections for the heads of small and large administration units by June 30 as stipulated by the current law, party executives said.

The opposition party is trying to drum up support for its idea to hold elections for Assemblymen and local administration heads simultaneously as a measure to minimize potential backwash of the elections on the economy. It will hold a public hearing on the idea on Tuesday.

Government economists and some businessmen have worried that frequent elections would deal a heavy blow to the economy, which is staggering under a growing trade deficit and rising wages, the reason No cited for the delay.

More on Opposition

SK1301025592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (OANA-YONHAP)—Opposition leaders charged Monday that the constitution does not empower President No Tae-u to postpone this year's local elections and warned that his action constituted an impeachable offense.

Democratic Party Co-chairmen Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek demanded that No cancel his plans to put off the elections, warning that otherwise the president would face serious resistance from their party and the people.

Postponement of the local elections meant No had virtually abandoned local autonomy, the opposition leaders said.

"To make such a betrayal, and without even a word of consultation or prior notification to the opposition, is a direct challenge to democracy and to the people, a mockery and betrayal of the opposition," they said in a statement issued during their new year press conference.

In his own new year press conference, No said last week he wanted to delay elections for mayors and provincial governors for a couple of years since holding them this year along with general and presidential polls would hurt the economy.

Local autonomy is one of the promises No made in his democratic reform pledge June 29, 1987, when he was the handpicked successor to President Chon Tu-hwan.

Kim and Yi demanded public hearings and National Assembly hearings in No's presence on three major controversies—the authorship of No's June 29 declaration, the "donations" by Hyundai Group founder Chong chu-yong to the presidential office and the Suso housing scandal, in which lawmakers were arrested for peddling influence and taking bribes.

If the ruling camp refused to convene the Assembly, the Democratic Party would go it alone, Kim and Yi said.

"Depending on how the situation develops, we wish to say now that we could demand that No step down," their statement said.

They asked all businessmen who gave money to Chongwadae to come forward.

If No was not implicated in the three scandals, then he or a representative should appear in a public debate, they said.

On reports that an inter-Korean summit may take place soon, the opposition leaders said they supported it but feared hastiness.

Full consultation with the opposition and the people on how to conduct a summit ought to come first, they said.

"There is a possibility of an inter-Korean summit being abused politically, so it should be held after the general elections," they said.

High-Definition TV Development Analyzed

SK1101084992 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 4 Jan 92 pp 17-18

[Article by reporters Choe Su-muk and Ho Sung-ho: "World War in HDTV"]

[Excerpts] High-definition television [HDTV] is the last item for competition in the electronics industry in the 20th century. At first, Japan appeared to have left others behind; it tried to commercialize HDTV and sweep the world market. Recently, the race has shown a sign of reversal in favor of the United States. The United States and the EC now aim at recovering lost ground in HDTV, after having lost the initiative to the Japanese lightweight, thin, and miniaturized products. [passage omitted]

The race in HDTV development does not allow Korea, ranking second in the world in television and semiconductor exports, to remain where it is.

The HDTV development program in Korean began in the late 1980's, about 20 years behind Japan and 10 years behind the United States and the EC. In early 1989, the government established a master plan to develop HDTV, and a private, joint promotion committee was formed.

According to the government plan, the Production Technology Institute will take charge of developing HDTV sets, and the Korea Telecommunications Research Institute of semiconductors.

The plan envisages the development of HDTV sets on an experimental basis by the end of 1993 with a budget of 100 billion won. The amount breaks down to 40 billion won from the government and 60 billion won from private industries. The plans calls for building a mass production system in 1995.

In Korea, HDTV has a symbolic meaning of the electronics industry's "standing on its own two feet," in addition to Korea's maintaining a vested interest in the new TV market.

Developing HDTV, independent of advanced countries' technologies, will become a landmark in competing with them on an equal basis in the overall electronics industry.

This is felt even more, given that the domestic electronics industry has been paying 99 billion won, or over 30 percent of its research expenses, in royalties. The industry unanimously thinks that it will be difficult to resolve the Korean industries' chronic weak international competitiveness unless they free themselves from their dependence on foreign technology by independently developing HDTV.

More than 2,000 small businesses are involved in the manufacture of HDTV, and HDTV is now closely linked to the life or death of the entire electronics industry.

Last year, domestic enterprises made an experimental HDTV model as large as a refrigerator, though not ready for practical use. Still, this projects great hope. It was considered to be a great achievement, because it was made by Korean engineers alone; whereas advanced countries are extremely reluctant to transfer HDTV-related technologies.

Korea is in a difficult situation, however, vying with giants like the United States, Japan, and the EC. This is because we must study all of the three systems and because formidable obstacles are in the way of developing our markets. It is even more difficult to develop Korea's own model with research expenses barely totaling 100 billion won while avoiding violatations of patents related to HDTV now being developed by the United States and the EC with an investment of over $1 billion each.

At first, Japan promised to transfer HDTV technologies in exchange for the right to cover the 1988 Seoul Olympics. But, Japan is now reluctant to transfer the main technologies. This shows how thorny our independent development of HDTV will be.

The Korean electronics industry has promoted joint participation with the United States and the EC from the early stage of development, making efforts to secure fundamental technologies. It believes in the strategy that only with its "technological alliance" with the United States and the EC can it overtake Japan.

GoldStar signed a technological tie-up agreement with Zenith Radio Corporation for joint research last year. Daewoo, Samsung, and Hyundai are also promoting similar technological strategies.

In addition, Taiwan, which is becoming an electronics giant, is a country that Korea must reckon with. Taiwan has already overtaken Korea in the personal computer industry. It is planning to invest approximately $200 million more than Korea is. Thus, Taiwan is making elaborate plans.

HDTV will be found in homes of various countries in the world after 1995. It will not only provide worldwide television viewers with excellent pictures but also clearly show who is the final victor in the electronics industry of the 20th century.

Construction Ministry To Issue Fewer Permits

SK1101074092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0727 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—The Construction Ministry forecast Saturday it would issue 7.4 percent fewer construction permits this year than last due to construction limits and a reduced housing supply. This compares with a 10.3-percent drop last year.

The figure is based on restrictions until March 31 or June 30 on building business, entertainment, accommodation and exhibition facilities in cities with populations of more than 300,000 and controls until June 30 on house construction nationwide. The housing quota is 500,000 houses, down from 610,000 last year.

The amount of construction orders is projected at 21.55 trillion won (28.36 billion U.S. dollars) in the housing sector, up 4.5 percent, and 13.17 trillion won (17.33 billion dollars) in the infrastructure sector, up 27 percent.

Burma

Operations Against Karen Insurgents Reported

BK1201145992 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] It has been reported that armed units from the KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist-insurgent organization's 102d Battalion have built strongholds in Dwado region located 12 miles southeast of Papun and have been smuggling timber from the region. Military units from the frontline 66th Infantry Light Regiment have been carrying out military operations against these insurgent positions since 4 January.

During the operations in Dwado region, Tonyogyi Hill was captured on 5 January, Point 1767 Hill was captured on 7 January, and Point 2507 Hill on 9 January. On 10 and 11 January three temporary KNU camps near Moebo village and Saw Tidoe Hill were attacked and captured. The military units were able to capture the entire Dardo region on the same day.

On 5 January simultaneous operations were launched in Pahike region in northern Papun by military columns under the command of the Southern Military Command, resulting in three small-scale battles. The entire Pahike region was captured on 12 January.

During the Dwado and Pahike campaign, two major battles and eight small-scale battles were fought during which three bodies of KNU terrorist-insurgents were recovered, 10 electric mines and 45 huts were captured, and five of our military personnel were wounded.

80 Troops Die in Clash

BK1101022992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Jan 92 p 6

[Text] More than 80 Burmese troops were killed and many others wounded in a fierce battle with Karen guerrillas near the headquarters of the Karen National Union [KNU], opposite Mae Hong Son Province yesterday, according to a field report from the Thai Army's Task Force 32 based in Mae Sariang District.

Seven guerrillas were also killed and 12 others wounded in the clashes provoked by Rangoon's attempt to seize three forward Karen garrisons near the Salween River which control the routes leading to the KNU's main headquarters.

The report estimated that about 1,200 Burmese troops were deployed in the three-pronged offensive.

One group, comprising elements of the 83d, 75th and 101st Battalions attacked the KNU's Huay Thinokor camp, about 10 kilometres from Sob Moei where the Salween and Moei rivers converge.

The report said the Burmese troops encountered heavy resistance from the Karens headed by Col Thina and sustained heavy casualties. About 60 troops were killed and 35 wounded while losses on the Karen side included seven dead and 12 injured, the report added.

The second force, comprising troops from the 6th, 19th and 80th Battalions, was ambushed by the Karens as it was heading towards the Mae Ratha camp.

Twenty-three Rangoon troops were killed and 50 wounded while the KNU lost six men and 11 were injured.

The third force, comprising 400 troops from the 5th Battalion, stormed the KNU's Kyaw Doh camp, about 10 kilometres from Mae Samlaeb, a Thai village on the bank of Salween River.

Meanwhile, a Thai Border Patrol Police field report from Mae Sot District of Tak claimed that about 100 Burmese porters press-ganged to carry ammunition and supplies for the Burmese forces were believed killed in a mistaken Burmese air strike last week.

Police said some 400 out of 1,500 porters drafted by Rangoon abandoned their loads in panic during the airstrikes.

Dr Abdul Razak, chairman of the All Burma Muslim Union, told the BANGKOK POST yesterday that most of the porters came from three villages located 10-20 kilometres from the Thai border, opposite Umphang District of Tak.

He said most of the Muslim inhabitants of the three villages had been evacuated because their houses had been destroyed by the air strikes.

The dead bodies, he added, were left to rot in the sun.

Razak who heads the Muslim guerrillas under the KNU umbrella said air strikes continued until Wednesday to relieve pressure on a Burmese platoon trapped by the guerillas.

Military Column Confiscates Opium, Explosives

BK1101024692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0130 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] On 23 December a military column from the Northern Command came across a group of suspicious persons—11 males and nine females—during a local security operation in the eastern part of (Tarwegyi) village in Myitkyina township. A search on the group yielded 110 packages of opium, 17 packages of explosives, two explosive coils, and four detonators.

It has been learned that action will be taken against these persons according to the law.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Further Reportage on Yang Shangkun Official Visit

Speaks at State Banquet With King

BK1001141092 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] His Majesty the Yang Dipertuan Agong [paramount ruler] Sultan Azlan Shah said every country should assume responsibility and play its respective role in the effort to establish a new order. His majesty said following major changes in international relations the world was no longer trapped in the clutches of a cold war and what remained were regional conflicts which were moving towards a resolution. His majesty was speaking at a banquet in honor of visiting President Yang Shangkun at the Istana Negara [State palace].

Nevertheless, the world was confronted with various serious challenges among which were the efforts towards the creation of a new world order. His majesty said every country should play its respective role and any one country or group of countries should not determine the future course of the world. The king said the United Nations should undertake greater efforts to maintain and enhance world peace and harmony. Developing countries, he said, should cooperate to ensure that the UN play its role as a world body in a fair and just manner. The Yang Dipertuan Agong said the ever-close relations between Malaysia and China had yielded various exchange of visits at official and economic and also people-to- people levels. Both countries had showed that the despite historical and political differences, they were able to cooperate in many ways for mutual benefit. His majesty said Malaysia desires to step up its relations with China. In fact, he said, the visiting president's visit marks a new phase in bilateral relations.

The Yang Dipertuan Agong said Malaysia appreciated China's support for the East Asia Economic Caucus, EAEC, concept. His majesty said as a member of the East Asian region and an economic power with great potential, China could make a positive contribution to make the EAEC a reality. The Yang Dipertuan Agong also referred to the various efforts China had made and was making for regional peace and stability.

In his written address, President Yang said the new order should be based on five principles of peaceful coexistence, conform to the principles of the UN Charter, and be universally accepted by the international community. At present, the international situation is undergoing profound changes. The world is turbulent and unstable. The people in various countries are looking forward to the establishment of a fair and reasonable new international and economic order. He said all countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, should be equal and have the right to participate in international affairs. Mr. Yang said China was ready to work with Malaysia and other countries for the establishment of a just and equitable new international order.

Discusses EAEC With Mahathir

BK1101084492 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] China has reiterated its support for the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus, EAEC. It also agreed to participate in all discussions regarding the matter. The support was conveyed by the Chinese President Yang Shangkun to Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir during their talks in Kuala Lumpur today.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir met the Chinese president for more than one and a half hours and took the opportunity to explain developments regarding EAEC.

In a briefing for newsmen later, the secretary-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Datuk Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, said China had also agreed to consider increased air and shipping links between both countries. This is to cater for increased trade and people-to-people link. The prime minister pointed out that bilateral trade has increased three-fold since his visit to China in 1985. Total trade last year between both countries was more than 1,500 million ringgit. Officials from Malaysia Airlines and the Malaysia International Shipping Corporation as well as the Ministry of Transport will hold discussions with their Chinese counterparts soon.

Datuk Ahmad Kamil also said China has agreed to consider fifth (?freedom) rights for MAS [Malaysian Airlines System] to a [words indistinct] China. MAS at present flies to Beijing and Guangzhou. China was also willing to review the shipping agreements between the countries, especially the Caucus-related discrepancies and [word indistinct].

President Yang Shangkun is on a five-day state visit to Malaysia.

Speaks on EAEC, Cooperation

BK1101141692 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The proposed East Asia Economic Caucus, EAEC, is important for the promotion of regional economic cooperation. Chinese President Yang Shangkun says China has adpoted a positive attitude towards the EAEC concept and has been following the development of the proposal. It is believed that the proposal is of positive significance for the promotion of regional economic cooperation. The Chinese leader said this at a news conference in Kuala Lumpur.

He pointed out that China which has already joined the Asia-Pacific rim cooperation forum has all along actively participated in economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The cooperation mechanism should be open and mutually be beneficial. It should also conform to the diverse characteristics of the region. President Yang arrived yesterday on a five-day visit.

He said the economically dynamic Asia-Pacific region enjoys the fastest economic growth rate in the world. As a country in the Asia-Pacific region, China attaches great importance to economic cooperation among countries in the area.

On trade protectionism on the part of developed countries he said it is an obstacle to the development of international trade and will harm the interests of the developing countries. From a long-term perspective it will also have a negative impact on the developed countries themselves. In view of this, developing countries should step up consultations and carry out coordinated action to maintain common interest.

President Yang said China-Malaysia relations have improved and added that the past few years have witnessed rapid development of economic relations and trade between the two countries. He expressed the hope that people from the economic and trade circles of both countries increase their discussions to further improve cooperation in two-way trade and in the field of technology.

Describing his visit to Malaysia as very successful, President Yang said the talks between the leaders of the two countries were frank and friendly. They agreed to the consensus on a wide range of issues. On the new world order, the Chinese leader said his country is for the establishment of a new international order. But the core is to respect the rights of people of all countries to determine their own destiny. The new international order should be established through the common efforts of all countries.

Notes 'Successful' Trip

BK1201084892 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Visiting President Yang Shangkun of China today had an audience with His Majesty the King Sultan Azlan Shah at the Istana Negara [State Palace] in Kuala Lumpur. President Yang was accompanied by Minister-in-attendance Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha and [words indistinct] exchanged souvenirs with His Majesty. Later, President Yang left for Langkawi Island [words indistinct]

President Yang said yesterday that the proposed East Asian Economic Caucus, EAEC, is important for the creation of regional economic cooperation. Speaking at a news conference in Kuala Lumpur, he said China had been following developments of the proposal. Describing his visit to Malaysia as very successful, President Yang said the talks between the leaders of the two countries were frank and friendly. The Chinese leader arrived two days ago for a five-day visit to Malaysia.

UNHCR To Fund Aid to Vietnamese Boat People

BK1201100892 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] has allocated three million ringgit to the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, MRCS, this year for the care and maintenance of some 12,500 Vietnamese boat people at the transit camp in Kuala Lumpur.

MRCS national vice chairman V.P. Nathan said part of the money would be used to educate them in languages and commercial skills to make them become more acceptable to (?their) country.

Singapore

Defense Minister Returns From Philippines

BK1001142992 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] The defense minister, Dr. Yeo Ning Hong, has returned home after a three-day visit to the Philippines. A Mindef [Ministry of Defense] statement says Dr. Yeo was briefed on the Philippine Armed Forces' modernization program and the security situation there. The visit was part of Dr. Yeo's introduction visits to the ASEAN countries as defense minister.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Chairs Second SNC Meeting 11 January

Ranariddh, Son Sen Absent

BK1101051992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0510 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 11 (AFP)—Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) met here Saturday without the presence of two of its members.

Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan arrived aboard a commercial flight from Bangkok shortly before the meeting began and was expected to leave Sunday morning.

As at the first SNC meeting, held here December 30, he came without his colleague Son Sen. Khieu Samphan said last time he was authorized to make decisions on behalf of his missing partner.

Nor did Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who was "not feeling well," attend the meeting on Saturday, his FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] representatives said.

His father, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, would act on his behalf, they said.

Prince Sihanouk, as SNC chairman, is supposed to be neutral.

The SNC was created to represent Cambodian sovereignty while it is under United Nations supervision between the signing of a peace treaty ending a civil war and free elections scheduled for 1993.

There were no angry mobs or signs of protest Saturday, unlike the first time Khieu Samphan tried to return here.

A mob nearly lynched the Khmer Rouge leaders November 27, forcing them to flee to Bangkok under Phnom Penh army protection.

Results Termed 'Disappointing'

BK1101113292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1125 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 11 (AFP)—Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) met Saturday without three of its 12 members, and broke up without significant resolutions or a new meeting date. The meeting was "disappointing," but the fact that the Cambodian peace process appears to be continuing "is not insignificant," said one source who attended the meeting.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, leader of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, and Cooperative Cambodia], one of Cambodia's four main factions, stayed away from the meeting after an argument with his father, SNC chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk, sources who attended said.

Also absent were Khmer Rouge leader Son Sen and Phnom Penh government representative Im Chhun Lim.

Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan arrived aboard a commercial flight from Bangkok shortly before the meeting began. He was expected to leave Sunday morning. Like at the first SNC meeting held here December 30, Khieu Samphan was authorized to make decisions on behalf of his missing partner.

Prince Sihanouk acted on behalf of his missing son, although as chairman of the SNC, he is supposed to be neutral. No one at the meeting objected to his stepping in for FUNCINPEC, the sources who attended said.

The group welcomed the naming of the U.N. special representative to Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, but resolved to continue pressing for his quick arrival and the rapid deployment of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

It also welcomed the expansion of the mandate of the U.N. advance mission already here, and the deployment of an extra 1,000 people to begin demining Cambodia's countryside.

At the meeting Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen reiterated he was not opposed to UNTAC's takeover of his five key ministries, including defense, foreign affairs and interior, the sources said.

The SNC discussed the problems of banditism and demobilization, and committed Cambodia once again to the multi-party system and press freedoms outlined in the peace agreement ending the civil war.

The nine also discussed the issuing of SNC passports. No date was set for the next meeting because Khieu Samphan was reluctant to commit himself to a date for security reasons, the sources said.

The SNC was created to represent Cambodia's sovereignty while it is under U.N. supervision between the signing of the peace treaty and free elections scheduled for 1993.

Unlike the first time Khieu Samphan tried to return to the capital, there were no angry mobs or signs of protest.

A mob nearly lynched Khieu Samphan and Son Sen on November 27, forcing them to flee to Bangkok under Phnom Penh Army protection.

Communique Issued

BK1201114592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 12 Jan 92

["Communique of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia;" dated 11 January—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia held its second meeting at Khemarin Pavilion in Phnom Penh City on 11 January 1992 under the lofty chairmanship of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian head of state and SNC chairman, with the participation of the head of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] and in the presence of the representatives of the five major powers and the delegates of friendly countries;

2. The SNC welcomed the nomination of His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi as the special representative of the UN secretary general for the implementation of the Cambodian peace accord and expressed the wish that the special envoy would be present in Cambodia at an early date;

3. With regard to a civilian authority, the SNC reaffirmed its meticulous implementation of the Paris peace accord;

4. The SNC reaffirmed its implementation of the agreement on the political system and human rights stipulated in the peace accord;

5. The SNC voiced its support for enhancing the UNAMIC's mandate in accordance with the UN Security Council's Resolution 728 dated 7 January 1992, which calls for providing information on mines and training on mine clearance; and

6. The SNC agreed to prepare an agenda—based on the issues already raised by its members for the next SNC meeting—which will be submitted for the examination

of Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian head of state and SNC chairman.

[Dated] 11 January 1992

Radio VOK Reports Meeting

BK1201094092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 12 Jan 92

According to informed sources in Phnom Penh, the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia held a meeting on 11 January without three members. Prince Norodom Ranariddh—secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC]—did not attend the meeting because he was not feeling well. Also absent were Son Sen from the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and another member from the State of Cambodia. No reasons were given for their absence.

The agenda of the meeting was not made public. However, Mak Ben, a PDK official said it wanted to discuss the early stationing of UN peacekeeping forces. Kiet Sokun, an official from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], disclosed that the KPNLF wanted to have area reserved for those in charge of departments attached to the SNC declared a neutral zone.

Khieu Samphan Arrives for Meeting 'Safely'

BK1201015892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Jan 92

["Press communique: His Excellency Khieu Samphan and Colleagues Arrived in Phnom Penh To Attend the Second Meeting of the Supreme National Council;" date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] A correspondent of the Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia radio reports that on the morning of 11 January 1992, His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] from the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], and colleagues safely arrived in Phnom Penh.

H.E. Khieu Samphan is in Phnom Penh this time to attend the second SNC meeting to be held on 11 January 1992 under the lofty chairmanship of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman.

With a spirit to end the suffering and great and tragic destruction of the entire Cambodian nation and people and achieve concrete results quickly, H.E. Khieu Samphan will strive, in cooperation with other SNC members, to quickly advance the implementation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

Returns to Bangkok

BK1201052992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0520 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 12 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan returned to Bangkok Sunday after attending a meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) in Phnom Penh.

Khieu Samphan went to the capital on Saturday for the meeting, the second time the interim reconciliation body has convened in the Cambodian capital.

The Khmer Rouge leader did not speak to reporters but an official travelling with him said he would be returning to Cambodia for the next meeting for which no date has been set.

Hun Sen Discusses Current Situation

BK1201065592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Interview with Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, by correspondent of Singapore's BUSINESS TIMES; dated 1 January—read by announcers]

[Text] [Correspondent] Laos and Vietnam have asked to be admitted as ASEAN members. The ASEAN summit will be held on 27-28 January 1992 in Singapore. What is your view on Cambodia's participation in ASEAN?

[Hun Sen] On this issue, I would like to say that this matter will be decided by the National Assembly after the election. However, I think Cambodia should join ASEAN because this is the best choice for developing Cambodia's economy and for ensuring long-lasting peace for the Cambodian people.

[Correspondent] After the trade embargo lasting for many years, the Singapore Government recently announced lifting the trade embargo against Cambodia and Vietnam. There is great interest now in investing in these two countries. What is the prime minister's view on expanding this economic sector?

[Hun Sen] I am very happy with Singapore's lifting of the trade embargo and encouraging investment in Cambodia. My view is that Cambodia can develop quickly with foreign investment without waiting until after the election in 1993. We should start investment now. After a protracted war, Cambodia has become a foreign investment market. Although peace is not yet fully restored because the agreement has not yet been 100 percent implemented, conditions for investment seem to have improved.

Therefore, the peace process and national reconstruction should go hand in hand. This way I think the process to end the Cambodian people's poverty will not require a (?long) period of time.

[Correspondent] We have heard of international initiatives to rebuild Cambodia. What are the plans for Cambodia proposed at the Paris conference? Are these plans only heard and seen on paper? Has your excellency received any pledge or promise to help rebuild Cambodia?

[Hun Sen] I have also heard about this and also worry about it. To date, even a sufficient budget for solving the Cambodian problem is not yet available. The operations of the UN Transitional Authority [UNTAC] in Cambodia are facing a lack of funds. The repatriation of refugees, which requires a lot of money, has so far received only a small amount of money.

So far, all the plans remain on paper. Only three countries have concretely provided assistance. France has helped in providing water and electricty to Phnom Penh; Thailand plans to build the road from Poipet to Sisophon as well as other projects; and Japan is discussing the restoration of the Chrouy Changva bridge, which was cut during the war. Apart from this, there is also aid from Australia, which, through the government, has provided humanitarian aid to nongovernmental organizations. India continues to provide aid to Cambodia. Other countries and various international organizations have only proposed plans; these plans have yet to be implemented.

I believe that in the near future, only private investment is of great importance in restoring the economy.

[Correspondent] In the future, as a Cambodian, in what fields does your excellency prime minister think Cambodia needs investment and how much money?

[Hun Sen] I would like to tell you that in Cambodia, every field needs investment. According to the preliminary estimates of our Planning Ministry, we need up to 1,200 million dollars to restore infrastructures. All the sectors need investment; however, three could have priority over others:

The agricultural sector, which is important in producing food and other products for export and providing raw materials for industry. Our country is an agricultural one in which up to 90 percent of the population are peasants. Thus, no party in power in Cambodia can look at this sector lightly.

The second priority is investment in communications, transport, and posts. We cannot expand an economy if the infrastructures in communications, transport, and posts are at a standstill.

The third priority is energy concerning electricity and fuel. We are facing great difficulties in providing electricity and fuel. We cannot expand industry or other services if there is not enough electricity.

[Correspondent] I would like to turn to the national reconciliation process. There are people who are still suspicious of the alliance between Samdech Sihanouk and His Excellency Hun Sen. If this alliance continues, will there perhaps be a merger of your excellency's party and that of Norodom Ranariddh?

[Hun Sen] I would like to tell you that if people are concerned about this alliance, this is a mistake. In fact, our alliance is not aimed at opposing anybody but appropriately implementing the accord for the sake of Cambodia's social stability. Therefore, this alliance should be encouraged because it is the way to national reconciliation.

As for the establishment of a joint party, personally, I believe that it is impossible. Two parties can be allied together. The inclusion of Prince Norodom Chakkrapong and Princess Bopha Devi, who are royal family members, is not an alliance; it is simply including them in our party's membership.

[Correspondent] I raised this question because of reports by many journalists saying that the Khmer Rouge do not like this at all.

[Hun Sen] This is the Khmer Rouge's business. We know that the Khmer Rouge are not happy; however, for those who want to join the Khmer Rouge, it is their right to do so. If the Khmer Rouge join something, it is their political right. However, the Khmer Rouge could misunderstand the goal of our alliance with FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]. We have no intention of using the alliance to pressure the Khmer Rouge. However, the Khmer Rouge's future is not determined by the alliance but only by the elections.

[Correspondent] A number of democratic-minded people have asked this question: Can the Khmer Rouge be allowed to take part in this political solution without being put on trial? What is the stance of your excellency's government?

[Hun Sen] I think the idea of trying the Khmer Rouge should not be ignored. Many people are calling for the trial of the Khmer Rouge. The people's anger with the Khmer Rouge seems to be unabated. The international community, although having signed this agreement, has not forgotten about taking the Khmer Rouge to court. This issue should be left for the next government to decide. We should not act on it at the moment because this can affect the process of implementing the peace accord which has just begun. The election is an opportunity for the people to punish the Khmer Rouge. The fact that the people will not vote for them is already a form of punishment.

[Correspondent] An issue which also affects the agreement is that of regrouping and reducing troops. Can the reduction of Khmer Rouge troops and weapons in the forest be dangerous to the implementation of the agreement?

[Hun Sen] This agreement should be implemented 100 percent, no more, no less. I believe this will face difficulties. I also believe that the Khmer Rouge are hiding weapons and ammunition in the jungles. This is the task of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, which is in charge of this matter. It is obvious that there should be guarantees against violating this agreement. However, I believe the accord (?will be) fully implemented because control should be carried out on both sides and not just on one side. Troops of both sides should be controlled and dissolved. If the Khmer Rouge do not do so, UNTAC has to take appropriate measures.

[Correspondent] After the disintegration of the USSR, can Singapore become Cambodia's trading partner? What do you think of the relations between Cambodia and this new community?

[Hun Sen] Singapore has been our trading partner for many years despite the fact that the Singapore Government has just lifted the trade embargo. The majority of imported goods in Cambodia come from Singapore and the majority of Cambodian export goods go to Singapore. I think that in the future, no country can play a role surpassing that of Singapore in trade with Cambodia because trade relations with Singaporean businessmen are very good at the moment.

It can be said that traders in Cambodia rely on the capital of their Singaporean counterparts. To be blunt, the latter are really trading with our Cambodian people. Our people do not easily trust foreigners. However, they trust Singaporeans who are dealing with our people.

As for the relations with the Russian Federation following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russia has taken over whatever belongs to the Soviet Union, including the permament membership in the UN Security Council. Thus, I believe that the contracts between the Soviet Union and the State of Cambodia should be transferred to the Russian Federation.

It is true that due to these changes there will be some setbacks in our relations. In fact, there is no trade this year. Cambodian students are successively leaving the Soviet Union while Soviet professors and specialists have already left Cambodia. A number of matters are still facing difficulties. These problems are not the result of political relations between the two countries. In fact, the Russian people and a number of states are still sympathetic to us. However, we should be understanding regarding these changes.

[Correspondent] Concerning the relations with Vietnam, how are they? I have heard from Vietnam that those agreements which do not contravene the Paris agreement should continue to be implemented while those that do will be scrapped.

[Hun Sen] This is the stance of both parties because the agreements are bilateral. As far as Cambodia is concerned, it must do this not just with Vietnam but with all countries that have signed agreements. All agreements that contravene the Paris accord will become null and void; those that do not will be kept for implementation, particularly economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation. It is not just Vietnam. Many countries which have signed agreements with us, are carrying on with us, including those in Eastern Europe.

Son Sen Holds Talks With UNAMIC Commander

BK1301084392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Sources in the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] disclosed yesterday that Son Sen, member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] from the PDK, met with the commander of the UN military force, General Michel Loridon, and pledged to fully cooperate with the United Nations.

Loridon visited the base of the Khmer Rouge in Pailin, western Cambodia, last Friday [10 January]. Son Sen said his side pledged to cooperate with the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia, or UNAMIC.

The meeting between Loridon and Son Sen was held three days after Loridon canceled a meeting in Phnom Penh with military leaders of the four Cambodian parties, saying the Khmer Rouge did not send a proper military representative to the meeting. Son Sen did not return to Phnom Penh since the time Khieu Samphan was attacked by demonstrators upon arriving in Phnom Penh to attend the first SNC meeting in November.

Indonesia

Continuing Reportage on 12 Nov Dili Incident

New Regional Commander Named

BK1301102892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0955 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Denpasar (Bali), Jan. 13 (OANA-ANTARA)—Army Chief-of-Staff General Edi Sudrajat said on Monday the November 12 bloody incident in East Timor's capital of Dili clearly reflected that potential disturbances of security still prevailed in the province.

The troublemakers continue to create restlesness and dissension among the public and hide themselves inside the houses of worship, Gen. Sudrajat said while installing Major General Herman Mantiri as the new commander of the Udayana Ninth Military Garrison, replacing Major General Sintong Panjaitan.

Panjaitan, along with a number of military officials held responsible for the Dili tragedy which claimed the lives of around 50 people, was relieved of his post upon the instruction of President Suharto.

Sudrajat said that serious attention should be given to the vulnerable condition and that firm but wise measures should be taken to ensure the public of the stability and security in the province.

Strategic efforts to restore, anticipate, and overcome the problems should be made wisely and correctly, by among others continually launching the territorial military operation, which so far has been successful, he added.

The territorial operation, according to Sudrajat, had proved the success of participation by the military in boosting up the welfare of the East Timorese people.

The hand-over ceremony which many considered it as a special event was attended by Defence and Security Minister L.B. Murdani, Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno, Chief of the Army Strategic Command Major General Wismoyo Arismunandar and a number of other top military officials from Jakarta.

Other importannt attendants were four governors whose provinces are overseen by the Udayana Division: Ida Bagus Oka of Bali, Warsito of West Nusa Tenggara, Hendrikus Fernandez of East Nusa Tenggara, and Marie Viegas Carrascalao of East Timor.

East Timor's Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo and the province's new military commander, Brigadier General Theo Syafei, who assumed his present post only last week, were also present at Monday's ceremony.

Citing that the Dili incident had been proportionately handled and accounted for by the Armed Forces and other related government's offices, Sudrajat said that the ceremony of Udayana's commander replacement was part of the government's move in the aftermath of the Dili incident.

Other moves made by the government following the Dili tragedy were the setting up of an inquiry team, the National Investigation Commission (KPN), and a military council.

The military council, which had been set up a few weeks ago, is designed to study the incident and inquire troopers and officers involved in the Dili incident so as to prevent that such a tragedy would not happen again in the future.

Saying that Panjaitan had well fulfilled his duty as military commander of the Udayana military garrison, Sudrajat said: "I expect that we (the military) could take the experiences in East Timor as a lesson to develop the province into a better future."

The army chief-of-staff also aired his expectation that Mantiri could bring new dynamism and changes to province, a more solid secured situation, and a more conducive atmosphere to boost development in East Timor.

German Official Meets Suharto

BK1101090892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Jakarta, Jan 11 (AFP)—Germany is certain that Indonesia will punish all those responsible for November's shooting in the East Timorese capital Dili, visiting German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ursula Seiler Arbling said Saturday.

"My government hopes and is convinced that appropriate actions and sanctions will be taken against those responsible for the incident," Arbling told reporters after meeting President Suharto.

Arbling added that she respected Suharto's efforts to draw lessons from the shooting.

"The Indonesian Government will try to improve the conditions, especially for East Timor's youth, who will be given the education and skills to be more prepared in performing their jobs," she said.

A special inquiry commissioned by Suharto said last month that about 50 people died when troops, acting without command, fired into a crowd mourning the slaying of a young East Timorese nationalist.

Suharto has ordered the replacement of two military commanders responsible for East Timor, and a council of six generals has been set up by the Army to probe the military's handling of the incident.

Thirty-three civilians suspected of involvement in unrest which the authorities say provoked the November 12 shooting have meanwhile been detained, and 14 of them face subversion charges.

East Timor, a former Portugese colony, was annexed by Indonesia in 1976, but the United Nations still considers it to be under Lisbon's domain. Arbling arrived Tuesday and was due to leave Monday for Vietnam. [passage omitted]

Police Detain Moroccans

BK1101072292 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0621 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Ambon (Maluku), Jan 11 (ANTARA)—Four Moroccans were picked up by the police in native Kecil village here on Tuesday evening for alleged involvement in the November 12 incident, at least as eyewitnesses, police sources here said on Tuesday.

The four Moroccan nationals—Mohamed, Arnalis Idris, Mustafa and Azis,—were picked up after the police received reports from residents who were suspicious about their presence in a villager's house.

Police preliminary investigation indicated that their visas had expired, and therefore they were handed over to the immigration office.

The police said that Mohamed and Azis obtained a tourist visa repectively from Sweden and Scotland for Jakarta destination.

When their visas expired, the two went to Kuala Lumpur to extend their visas and entered Indonesia again.

The other two, Mustafa and Arnal Idris, meanwhile, obtained their visas from Morocco, and, when arriving in Jakarta, continued their trip to Surabaya, Bali and East Timor.

When questioned by the police, Mohamed said they arrived in Ambon from Dili aboard "KM Daya Nusantara" motor vessel.

In fact, this vessel does not serve this route.

Alex Joseph, a villager who hosted the Moroccans in his relative's house and was also arrested by the police, said the Morrocan nationals arrived in Saumlaki using a sailing boat and then they embarked on "Daya Nusantara" for Ambon.

Joseph who is also a crew member of "KM Daya Nusantara" said they met the foreigners on the vessel and when they arrived in Ambon, he asked them to stay in a house of his relative.

At first, their presence in the village did not make the local people suspicious because they thought they were tourists.

But some residents began to be suspicous when they saw that they rarely went out of the house.

The four Moroccans are now put in the immigration office's quarantine because besides visa expiration, they are also suspected of implication in the November 12 incident in Dili, at least as eyewitnesses.

Election Commission Announces Campaign Rules

BK1201085792 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] After the issuance of a presidential decree on 9 January 1992 on election campaigns, which among other things bans street parades using various types of vehicles, a news release of the Election Commission also stated that except for security officers, those involved in election campaigns are not allowed to carry sharp weapons, explosives, or anything that may disturb public order and security. All election contestants are also banned from carrying or using pictures which glorify certain personalities. However, during the campaign period all election contestants are allowed to carry their own party symbol and exhibition kits, such as posters, banners, and brochures.

The decree also bans all election contestants from questioning and distorting the contents, meaning, and spirit of the Pancasila ideology and the 1945 Constitution. They are not allowed to cast doubt on the validity of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. The three election contestants will be allowed to use Radio Republik Indonesia and Televisi Republik Indonesia for their election campaigns, but the broadcasts will be aired from Jakarta only.

Election campaigns will last 25 days from 10 May to 3 June 1992 and the cooling-off period will be from 4 to 8 June.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Visits 13 Jan

BK1301060792 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0500 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Rabbie Namaliu and his wife today begin a three-day [as heard] official state visit to Indonesia. Radio Republik Indonesia's correspondent Joko Saksono reports their arrival at Sukarno-Hatta International Airport.

[Begin Saksono recording] Prime Minister of Papua New Guniea, Rabbie Namaliu and his wife arrived three hours ago and were accorded a ceremonial welcome by President and Madam Suharto, and Vice President and Madam Sudharmono at the Merdeka Palace grounds in Jakarta. During the ceremony, the national anthems of the two countries were played and a ceremonial 21-gun salute was fired. Following the official welcoming ceremony, President Suharto introduced Papua New Guinean Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu to the country's high-ranking government officials and the cabinet ministers. The state guests—Prime Minister Namaliu and his wife—flew into the Sukarno-Hatta International Airport at 8:30 AM this morning aboard a Singapore Airline B747 Big Top aircraft. After riding in a state motorcade, Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu and his wife were welcomed by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and his wife, armed forces regional commander Major General Harsono and his wife, Jakarta's Deputy Mayor Harmowo, and other ranking military and civil service officials. Four high school students were also on hand to welcome the state guests by strewing (?scented) flower petals onto them at the Sukarno-Hatta international airport. Prime Minister Rabbi Namaliu was dressed in a brown suit while his wife had a bright green dress. [end recording]

Prime Minister Rabbi3 Namaliu will hold talks with Minister of State for Research and Technology Habibie and Pertamina's First Director Faisal Abda'u at the State Guest House. The state guests will attend a state banquet hosted by President and Madam Suharto tonight at the State Palace in Jakarta.

Laos

Kaysone Phomvihan Ends Visit to Thailand

BK1301073592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] On the morning of 11 January, His Excellency [H.E.] Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], ended an official visit to Thailand as the guest of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, and left Chiang Mai Province for an unofficial visit to the southern provinces of Phuket, Chon Buri, and Rayong.

At 1250 on 11 January, His Royal Highness Prince Maha Wachiralongkon went to Chiang Mai Airport to see off H.E. LPDR President Kaysone Phomvihan and his wife at the end of their official visit to Chiang Mai Province. At the airport, his royal highness the crown prince led H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan to the platform at the airport runway to accept respects from the guard of honor amid the playing of the Lao and Thai national anthems. Later, his royal highness the crown prince led H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan and wife on board the royal plane.

H.E. LPDR President Kaysone Phomvihan and his wife began an unofficial visit to Phuket Province as private guests of their majesties the king and the queen on the afternoon of 11 January. They will stay in Phuket for three days. Afterward, at 0945 on 14 January, H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan and his wife will proceed to Chon Buri and Rayong Provinces by a special royal plane provided by the Royal Thai Air Force. They will stay there for two days and will leave for home on the afternoon of 15 January.

Chiang Mai Activities Cited

BK1101123692 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and his wife went to worship the Buddha statue inside Phra Sing Temple in Chiang Mai Province yesterday morning. The Buddha statue was cast by a Sri Lankan king in 157 [A.D] and resembles those of the Chiang Saen era. On the same occasion, the Chiang Mai provincial administration organized the tradional baisi ceremony to welcome and seek protection from all sacred beings for the president and his wife. The president and his wife proceeded to Photharam Temple, built in 1455 by King Tolokarat, the 11th king of the Lana Thai Kingdom. The seven-pagoda temple was built as a replica of India's Buddhakhaya Temple and is the place where the 8th revision of the Tripitaka, Buddhist holy book, was made. H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan also planted a tree at this temple.

Changes, Development of Countryside Viewed

BK1201090392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Article: "Changes in the Lao Countryside"]

[Text] Respected listeners, an estimated 80 percent of the territory in our country is composed of mountainous areas where climatic conditions are suitable for crop cultivation and livestock raising. Our natural resources are abundant and our people have also been imbued with a tradition of hard work in building the country and earning their livelihood since ancient times. Nonetheless, production conditions of the natural economy in our country are still backwards. That is why it is extremely important to build a new countryside in which the multiethnic people are able to seriously produce goods in earnest.

The development of the new countryside or the building of a new form of economic zones in the Lao countryside began in the past few years in certain key areas, such as Hom District in Vientiane Province, Nonghet and Mok Mai Districts in Xieng Khouang Province, Dakchung District in Sekong Province, Kham Keut and Viangthong Districts in Bolikhamsai Province, Houa Meuang District in Houa Phan Province, and other localities.

Since various socioeconomic projects have been implemented in an earnest manner in Hom District of Vientiane Province, in which a large sum of money has been invested with international cooperation, such as the Comprehensive Development Project 88/024 and the Model Rural Development Project or Project 89/550 for Eradication of Narcotic Drugs, changes and progress have been created for Hmong compatriots living in this locality. For example, the construction of more than 100 kilometers of highway from Vientiane through Long San to Pha Lavek—the land of Father Tua Luang, our national hero—has been completed and so has the construction of a highway from the pier at Ban Don Hom village at the Nam Ngum Dam to Long San for all-season travel. At the same time, a 32-km strategic road for year-round travel from Pha Lavek to Nam Yuak and Vang Na Sai will be finished by mid-1992 and a new 60 km road from Pha Levek to Saisomboun will be built to be completed by the end of the current dry season.

These highways have become an incentive for more than 20,000 Hmong people living in Hom District, who previously earned their living by carrying out slash-and-burn crop cultivation and producing opium in the highlands, to gradually move down to the lowlands in many valleys in the Tha Tian area, which is accessible to a highway running through it to grow rice and other fruit trees on more than 700 hectares of land for commercial purposes. They have also engaged in raising more than 30,000 head of cattle and have established markets in many densely populated villages, such as Ban San Patong village, Long San, and Pha Lavek. In addition, public health and education work has also been developed for the people in these localities. Many primary, secondary, and senior high schools have been set up to provide education to Hmong ethnic children to become a primary source of labor for production and qualified continuation of the future of the country.

In Kham Keut and Viangthong Districts in Bolikhamsai Province, thanks to the fulfillment of responsibilities by the Mountainous Region Development Enterprise, new changes have been noticeably brought to the people in these localities. For example, a new civilized town has been set up at Lak Sao with many multi-story brick buildings and well-built wooden houses, electricity, schools, a hospital, a sawmill, and a pharmaceutical factory. A road has been built to link Kham Keut and Viangthong Districts for two-season commuting. A new road is also being built from Ban Chomthong to Mok Mai District in Xieng Khouang Province. More than

1,200 hectares of ricefields have been opened for the people and many irrigation projects completed to boost production.

As for the development of Mok Mai District in which more than 7,000 Hmong ethnic people live, changes have taken place in many fields. More than 200 hectares of new ricefields have been cleared. A 200 km road is also being built from Mok Mai District to Nonghet District in Xieng Khouang Province.

As for the development of Nonghet District in Xieng Khouang Province and Houa Meuang and Viangthong Districts in Houa Phan Province by the Lao-U.S. Cooperation Project, the building of economic infrastructure has been under way in many Hmong ethnic localities. The important thing is that production has been restored in these areas and Hmong people have been encouraged to completely stop slash-and-burn crop cultivation in the highlands.

In the years to come, socioeconomic development will be carried out in Dakchung District of Sekong Province.

The above-mentioned successes of bringing about changes to the Lao coutryside clearly indicate the close attention paid by our party and state to this matter, as well as the correct policy of our party and the participation of our people, who always strive to increase national unity around the party and state and to develop and build the country in order to bring prosperity to it.

Contract on Road Design Signed by SRV Company

BK1201024092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] In early January, Siangmi Luangsai, head of the Communications, Transport, Posts, and Construction Service of Bolikhamsai Province, and (Nguyen Long), head of Company No. 11 of the SRV, signed a contract on conducting a survey of and designing route No. 14 from Meuang Heuang District to Na Kout village.

SRV Company. No 11 will render cooperation to Laos in undertaking the survey and designing the road to be completed within two months beginning in late January.

SRV Firm Delivers Ferryboat to Bokeo

BK1101101092 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 11 (KPL)—Bokeo Province has recently received a ferry from the Ship Building Federation of Vietnam, the ferry capable of supporting 80 tons costs U.S. dollars 150,000.

On the other hand, Laos and Vietnam have agreed to build a tourist ferry cruising the "Golden Triangle" a meeting point of three countries' borders Myanmar [Burma], Thailand and Laos.

Philippines

Aquino Names Head of Bases Withdrawal Panel

HK1101060792 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 2200 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Former Ambassador to Moscow Alejandro Melchor will head the government withdrawal panel that will lead negotiations and oversee the orderly withdrawal of U.S troops from Subic Naval Base.

According to Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon, President Aquino appointed Melchor as head of the panel. Drilon said that he recommended Defense Undersecretary Feliciano Gasis, Labor Undersecretary Bienvenido Laguesna, Ambassador Emmanuel Fernandez, and Attorney Teresita de Castro as members of the panel. Drilon also said that Melchor was chosen due to his extensive experience in international relations and due to his negotiating abilities.

[Begin Drilon recording in English] We need somebody who would have the exposure in the business community because what is important is that we should have somebody of stature and experience so that we can have the least (destruction) in the transition. And so that we can protect the livelihood of our Filipino contract workers. [end recording]

NPA To Free U.S. Citizen 'Within Week'

HK1301105392 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Emiliano Templo, chief of Philippines Armed Forces Military Operations, has announced that New People's Army [NPA] rebels will release their American hostage, identified as R.B. Duane [name as heard], within the week. According to Templo, the rebels agreed to release Duane after lengthy negotiations.

Aquino Inducts 3 Cabinet Secretaries

HK1101060692 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 2200 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino formally inducted three cabinet secretaries: Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello, Interior and Local Government Secretary Cesar (Sarino), and Transportation and Communication Secretary Pete Prado. The three were formally sworn in before President Aquino at Malacanang yesterday. The appointment papers of the three will be submitted to the Bicameral Commission on Appointments for their confirmation.

Senator Guingona New Liberal Party Chairman

HK1201021792 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Senator Jovito Salonga, president of the Liberal Party [LP], has agreed to make Senator Teofisto Guingona the new LP chairman. Salonga's approval ended the present crisis in the party. Prior to this, Guingona threatened to resign from the LP, along with a number of party members, if Salonga refused to give him the LP chairmanship. Earlier, Senators Guingona, Salonga, and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. held a closed door meeting lasting more than an hour in which it was decided that Guingona would be made the new LP chairman. In light of these events, it is expected that the Salonga-Pimentel tandem will push through under the LP-Philippine Democratic Party-Nation's Strength coalition.

Aquino Approves Full Privatization of Major Bank

HK1301111492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has approved the full privatization of the Philippine National Bank [PNB]. According to PNB President Egardo Espiritu, Mrs. Aquino finally agreed to sell the additional shares in the bank, equivalent to 21 percent of its capital stock.

Aquino To Oppose Budget Debt Cap

HK1101070992 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 2200 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino will oppose the debt cap provision of the 1992 National Budget. According to Senate President Neptali Gonzales, the President informed him of her stand during a recent meeting at Malacanang. Gonzales said that the president's decision was based on the possible ill effects of the debt cap on the Philippines in terms of its relations with the international donor community.

Aquino Orders Disbandment of 'Private Armies'

HK1301091192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0852 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Manila, Jan 13 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino Monday ordered the national police to disband the "private armies" of Philippine politicians to ensure the peaceful holding of the May 11 national elections.

Aquino summoned senior police officials to the presidential palace here and asked the officers "to disband all the identified warlords who are keeping private armies," said Cesar Sarino, secretary of the department of interior and local government.

She also ordered that police bodyguards assigned to prominent politicians and personalities be "recalled," and for provincial and regional commanders to be reshuffled by January 29 to ensure that their units will remain impartial during the vote, he told reporters.

"We are giving them every chance to tell us a convenient time to do this so that the plan can be implemented based on local conditions," Sarino added.

An official ban on the carrying of firearms, including licensed ones, came into effect Sunday.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) order, which excludes only soldiers and policemen on duty, was designed to prevent a repetition of bloody election-related incidents in past ballotings in this country.

The 120-day election period in the Philippines started on Sunday. New voters who turned 18 years old in the past three years will be asked to register with the Comelec on February 1 to be eligible to vote.

Candidates for president have until February 8 to file their certificates of candidacy with the Comelec.

Firearms Seized From Suspected Honasan Hideout

HK1301020892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] High-powered firearms and ammunition have been found and confiscated from a safehouse suspected to be the hideout of renegade officer Gregorio Gringo Honasan in Mandaluyong. The house is owned by businessman Cesar Magsaysay. The house, located at 103 Sierra Madre Street, Mandaluyong, was raided under a search warrant issued by Judge Hilario Luki of the Mandaluyong Metropolitan Trial Court. Confiscated from the house were three boxes of M-16 bullets, two boxes of .38 caliber bullets, three fatigue uniforms and two T- shirts printed with the words: I love you all, Gringo. Magsaysay could not be reached for comment about the ammunition seized from his house.

Thailand

U.S. Military Presence in Southeast Asia Viewed

BK1201021092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Jan 92 p B3

[Editorial: "U.S. Military Presence"]

[Text] Singapore's decision to host the logistical command of the US 7th Fleet created noticeable uneasiness in Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta. For it was made without advance explanation or consultation with any fellow ASEAN friends; Malaysian and Indonesian officials heard about it from US envoys shortly before President Bush and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong officially unveiled it during Bush's visit to Singapore early this month.

The Command Task Force 73, which will have about 200 naval personnel led by a rear admiral, coordinates port calls, supply replenishment and maintenance for American warships. U.S. and Singapore officials insist it is not a U.S. naval base. But this is a matter of semantics, very much like in the "rotation presence" of a squadron of F-16s together with 95 U.S. airmen.

Singapore's motive for providing facilities to the U.S. forces is well-known. Singapore doesn't want to be like Kuwait, invaded and swallowed up by a big hostile neighbour. Singapore leaders have in mind who might be the Southeast Asian Iraq, but wouldn't say so publicly for obvious reasons. Singapore apparently hopes the token U.S. military presence on its territory could serve as a deterrence and, if the worse comes to the worst, a trip wire to trigger automatic U.S. military intervention in defence of Singapore.

The U.S., on the other hand, justifies its military presence in Singapore as part of its continuing forward deployment in the region despite its closure of the gigantic U.S. Clark air base and the U.S. naval base at Subic Bay in the Philippines by the end of this year.

During the Cold War, the U.S. forward deployment was clearly aimed at containing China and the USSR. Now that the Cold War is over and the USSR has broken up into 15 independent republics that are too busy with domestic problems to threaten anyone else in faraway places, which country could be a potential threat to regional peace and U.S. interests in this part of the world?

One can argue that Russia has inherited a large part of the formidable armed forces, including nuclear arms, of the defunct USSR. Russia's naval forces in the Far East remain a potential strategic threat, and those new Russian leaders in Moscow know how to flex their muscles when conventional diplomacy puts them at a disadvantage vis-a-vis their weaker counterparts. This is probably why Japan, with or without U.S. urging, is rearming itself to counterbalance the Russian forces.

One may even add that China, because of its size and Communist government, is also a source of potential threat, regardless of what Chinese leaders say how much they yearn for a peaceful international environment to pursue the five modernization programmes. But what can the U.S. do to help countries that come into a conflict with China? Is the U.S. going to help defend Taiwan should Beijing try to take over the island by force?

Fortunately most of the countries in Southeast Asia are on friendly terms with both China and Russia. Chinese President Yang Shangkun was visiting Singapore and Malaysia last week. And Moscow now looks forward to developing closer economic ties with ASEAN.

In this multipolar world, India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Japan are de facto regional powers with enough potential to threaten their weaker neighbours one way or the other. Their conflicts with weaker neighbours are not unusual. This is something the U.S. military presence can do little to improve the situation. The U.S. forces, for example, were irrelevant in the Cambodian conflict.

Countries in the region also no longer always share the U.S. perception like they used to do during the Cold War. ASEAN is quite uncomfortable with the rearmament of Japan. But the U.S. wants Japan to spend more on everything, including a military buildup, so that Japan buys more American arms and other goods. ASEAN wants to maintain "constructive engagement" with Burma, whereas the U.S. tries quite correctly though rather in vain to isolate the Burmese military dictatorship.

The U.S. openly opposes Malaysia's initiative to form an East Asian Economic Caucus and leans on Japan to withhold its support. The U.S. forward deployment contradicts the ASEAN's professed policy of transforming Southeast Asia into a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality which is free from nuclear weapons. The U.S.—notwithstanding its lip service to nonproliferation of nuclear arms—has refused to support ASEAN in banning nuclear weapons from Southeast Asia because such a ban would go against the U.S. forward deployment in which tactical nuclear arms have always been included.

The upcoming fourth ASEAN summit to be held in Singapore later this month will be an ideal time for the ASEAN leaders to discuss the U.S. military presence. Singapore Prime Minister Go Chok Tong should explain why the U.S. military presence will make him sleep better.

If the U.S. military presence is really good for the region, then ASEAN should actively help relocate the U.S. forces pulling out of the Philippines. After all Thailand's U-taphao seems in good enough condition to welcome a return of U.S. B-52 bombers; Malaysia and Indonesia have many good deep-sea ports for the 7th Fleet to tighten control of the Straits of Malacca and other nearby international sealanes. ASEAN might even convince Vietnam to lease out Cam Ranh Bay to the 7th Fleet after the Russians close their naval facilities there due to a shortage of funds.

Rice, Foodstuffs To Be Sold to Russia on Credit

BK1101033192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Jan 92 p 13

[Text] Russia has sought to buy rice from Thailand which has agreed to sell on credit.

Prime Minister's Office Minister M.R. Kasem S. Kasemsi said the deal would help shore up domestic paddy prices. But he declined to disclose the volume to be sold to Russia.

He said exporters of other products also had a good opportunity to explore the market in that country.

For example, he said, the tile market in Russia was previously dominated by Yugoslavia, but Yugoslavia had been torn by a civil war, opening the way for other countries, including Thailand, to tap the Russian market.

M.R. Kasem added that beside rice, Thailand would sell garments and canned food to Russia on credit.

He also said the United States would host an international meeting on January 22 and 23 to discuss the provision of assistance to newly established countries which were formerly states of the USSR.

Thailand, to be represented by M.R. Kasem at the meeting, will offer to provide farming technology for those countries.

Meanwhile, the Screening Committee on National Security and Foreign Affairs yesterday approved a proposal to extend "friendship credit" worth not less than 100 million baht to Vietnam to buy goods from Thailand.

M.R. Kasem said the credit offer would be made by Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun during his official visit to that country during January 15-17.

"The Government has agreed to extend credit to Vietnam because it is our neighbouring country," M.R. Kasem said.

Lao President Leaves Chiang Mai for Phuket

BK1201085392 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] President Kaysone Phomvihan of the Lao People's Democratic Republic concluded the formal part of his state visit to Thailand, departing from Chiang Mai Province in the north for his informal visit to Phuket resort island in the south. The Lao president spent two full days in the northern capital observing the royal project, the Study Center for Royally-Initiated Projects, visiting old temples and significant shrines and folk craft centers. The similarities in lifestyle of the northern people and his people in Laos touched him deeply.

In Phuket, President Kaysone and Madam Thongvin will be visiting the Institute of Marine Fishery and Biological Research. He will further proceed to the Eastern Seaboard for his planned visit to the industrial estate and the industrial port of Mat Ta Put and the herb garden, at the initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon.

The Lao president, his wife, and party will depart from U-Taphao Airport to return to Laos on Wednesday, 15 January.

Thai, Cambodian Authorities Reopen Border Temple

BK1001013592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 Jan 92 p A2

[Text] Thai and Cambodia authorities yesterday unexpectedly re-opened Khao Phreah Vihear Khmer temple, which had been closed for 30 years, without prior announcement of the exact time.

Both countries simultaneously and separately performed the re-opening ceremony for the Khmer temple, which is adjacent to the lower northeastern province of Si Sa Ket's Kantharalak district.

Assistant Si Sa Ket Governor Wirasak Ponphibun, who attended the ceremony at the temple, which straddles the Thai-Cambodian border, said yesterday the move caught police and military officers overseeing the area by surprise as the provincial authorities had not issued any advance public notice.

Wirasak said this was done to reduce the difficulties that were bound to arise especially in Cambodia.

He said that the unprecedented ceremony performed yesterday could be described as the first official re-opening with a grand one scheduled for next month, he added.

The Khao Phreah Vihear temple, which was once considered part of Thailand, has been closed to visitors since June 1962 when the World Court decided to hand over the temple to Cambodia. From now on, Wirasak said, people could visit the Khmer temple throughout the week from 8 am to 4 pm. They can just show their identity cards to officials. The entrance fee is Bt [baht] 50, instead of Bt [baht] 60 as earlier agreed upon by both countries in November last year.

The re-opening of the temple was initally scheduled for Dec 3 last year. But it was postponed to this month as the region around the historic temple was considered to be unsafe.

NPKC Not To Be Dissolved on Election Night

BK1301005192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Jan 92 p A2

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday dismissed National Assembly President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin's statement on Friday that the military junta would be dissolved at midnight on the general election day of March 22.

Suchinda, the key leader of the junta, said the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) could not be dissolved until the post-election Cabinet had been formed.

Ukrit told reporters on Friday that the NPKC, which toppled the elected administration of Gen Chatchai Chunhawan on Feb 23, would be dissolved at midnight on March 22.

He was speaking during a panel discussion of a popular television programme, MONG TANG MOOM (Looking from Different Perspectives) which was aired on Channel 11 last night.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan yesterday said he understood that the NPKC would retain its power until the new government is in office.

Michai quoted the Article 216 of the charter's provisional section as stating that the NPKC's power, given under the military-adopted interim Constitution, will remain intact until a Cabinet is sworn in after the next general election.

He said he believed that Ukrit had intended to convey this meaning. The deputy prime minister did not elaborate.

100 Assembly Members Set To Lose Jobs

BK1201014292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] Some 100 of the National Legislative Assembly's [NLA] 270 members are expected to lose their jobs in the ongoing screening process for members of the powerful Senate, which will be announced on election day, March 22, reliable NLA sources said yesterday.

The sources said 65 of the 100 members who stand to be screened out are civilian members of the NLA while the rest are military officers.

The 100 will be replaced by new nominees who will be then appointed with the remaining NLA members to sit in the Senate, the sources said.

The screening process to find replacements for the 65 civilians has been completed, the sources said. The selection of candidates to fill the vacancies left by the 35 military officers is expected to be finished in March before the election.

The 35 military NLA members are likely to be succeeded in the Senate by their colleagues who are in line for promotion to commanding positions in combat units in the armed forces.

The sources did not elaborate on the identitites of the NLA members who would lose their jobs and their successors in the to-be-formed Senate whichs National Peace-keeping Council chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong insists must be dominated by military men.

Gen Sunthon, during a recent interview, insisted that the military must form the core of the Upper House because they had shared the "moment of life and death" together.

Under the new Constitution, the Senate will have overwhelming power to debate and vote on important legislation including executive decrees. It will also have the power to censure the Government.

Sources have said that under an arrangement, the Army is likely to be represented in the Senate by at least 60 officers, the Navy and Air Force by 25 each, while the Supreme Command headquarters will have about 20.

Gen Sunthon has said that the Senate is expected to comprise members who include some of the present Cabinet and NLA members.

The general, who will countersign a Royal command to appoint the Upper House members, has said he will not rush screening of Senate members although a large number of people have lobbied him for appointment.

Mon Rebel Leaders Arrested

BK1201015492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] The situation along the Thai-Burmese border in Kanchanaburi Province has been tense since three high-ranking leaders of the New Mon State Party [NMSP] were arrested by Thai authorities and charged with illegal entry, a police source said.

The three are still being detained in Kanchanaburi.

The NMSP, from a border area opposite Kanchanaburi's Sangkhla Buri District, leads the Mon ethnic minority rebels in their struggle against the Burmese government.

Mon soldiers and civilians under the NMSP are dissatisfied with the action taken by the Thai authorities against their leaders, the source said.

Their dissatisfaction may affect national security since the Mon rebels may stop cooperating with the Thai authorities in areas such as monitoring cross-border trade and refugee movement along the border.

Deputy Police Chief for special affairs Gen Manat Krutchaiyan said yesterday he and Police Chief Gen Sawat Amonwiwat have been briefed about the situation.

More details will be provided by the Border Patrol Police, he said.

Police and local officials will be instructed to take relevant action to solve the problem, Pol Gen [Police General] Manat said.

Concerning the policy for the Immigration Division police to work with the Metropolitan Police, Central Investigation Bureau and provincial police headquarters to launch a massive crackdown on illegal immigrants, Pol Gen Manat said the main problem facing Immigration is that they don't have enough space to detain illegal immigrants.

Pol Gen Manat said it is believed there are now about 100,000 illegal immigrants in the country. The Burmese make up the majority with the rest being mainly Chinese, Bangladesh and Pakistani nationals.

"The Immigration Division each day handles more than 1,000 illegal immigrants but only about 500 are deported," he said.

Vietnam

Vo Van Kiet Meets UK's Lord Caithness

BK1001154992 Hanoi VNA in English 1506 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 10—Chairman Vo Van Kiet of the Council of Ministers received at the Presidential

Palace here this afternoon Lord Caithness, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Lord Caithness, who is on a 10-day visit to Vietnam, noted that relations between the two countries over the past years have developed thanks to their joint efforts. He said that beside cooperation in oil industry, the British Government has plans to help Vietnam train personnel and encourage British businessmen to invest in Vietnam.

For his part, Chairman Vo Van Kiet welcomed British companies, especially those in oil and gas industry, for their current oil exploration and investment in Vietnam. The chairman noted with joy the fine cooperation between the two countries in repatriating and reintegrating Vietnamese illegal emigrants, and expressed his hope for effective cooperation and assistance from the British Government in the near future in the spirit of humanism and sympathy with Vietnam for its difficulties. Chairman Vo Van Kiet and Lord Caithness also discussed measures to further promote the friendship and cooperation between the two countries for the interests of the two peoples and for peace, stability, cooperation and friendship in the region.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1221 GMT on 10 January carries a Hanoi-datelined item which reads in part: British Foreign Office Minister Lord Caithness on Friday urged the United States to lift its trade embargo and normalize relations with Vietnam. "It is time for normal relations. The world is very much a changed place," Caithness said as he emerged from a meeting with Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet, who asked Britain to intercede with its U.S. ally on Hanoi's behalf.

"We have talked to the Americans and we will talk to the Americans again," the minister with responsibility for Asia said.]

British Trade Library Opened

BK1001154192 Hanoi VNA in English 1453 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 10—The British Trade Library, the first foreign trade library to be established in Vietnam, was officially opened here this morning at 33 Ba Trieu Street by Mr. Doan Ngoc Bong, secretary general of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vietnam and Lord Caithness, minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. The library is jointly sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of the British Department of Trade and Industry and the British Embassy in Hanoi. The library holds a wide range of current publications covering British commercial and industrial organisations, products and services.

Accelerated Repatriation Accord Reached

BK1101083092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0822 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi, Jan 11 (AFP)—Britain and Vietnam have agreed to speed both the voluntary and involuntary repatriation of boat people from Hong Kong, the British Embassy said Saturday.

The statement followed a four-day visit to Hanoi by Foreign Office Minister Lord Caithness, who left Saturday for Ho Chi Minh City en route to the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh.

"Both sides have agreed to do what they can to increase the rate of repatriation under the existing schemes," the British statement said.

It referred to both the voluntary repatriation programme run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the involuntary "orderly repatriation programme" launched in November.

"Two flights have already taken place under the orderly repatriation programme in accordance with international practices.... More flights are planned" the statement said, without mentioning any date.

Hanoi, London and Hong Kong agreed in principle October 29 that all boat people who fail to qualify as refugees in accordance with international criteria will be deported as illegal migrants.

Two planes have carried 87 Vietnamese back since then—all of them boat people who had made the trip twice or who arrived after the agreement was announced. Some of the returnees resisted and had to be carried onto the plane.

Hong Kong's camps still hold some 60,000 boat people, only 4,400 of whom have qualified as refugees eligible for resettlement in a third country.

News of the forced repatriation scheme has nonetheless spurred the UNHCR's voluntary programme, which has brought home 14,200 Vietnamese since 1989.

"There has not been a single verified case of persecution to returnees, who have been monitored by national and international organisations," the British statement said.

The number of boat people arriving in Hong Kong and other Southeast Asian ports has also dried to a trickle, partly because UNHCR revised an incentive scheme that was actually enticing people to leave Vietnam.

Vietnamese officials said they asked Caithness during his visit for increased financial aid from Britain and Hong Kong to reintegrate returning boat people.

Caithness concurred during his visit that Vietnam's economic problems were at the root of the boat people problem.

His 24-hour stay in Ho Chi Minh City was expected to focus on the role played by Hong Kong and British business in Vietnam. Hong Kong is the second-largest foreign investor here, while Britain is fifth.

The minister with special responsibility for Asia was due to visit Cambodia from Sunday to Tuesday and then continue on to Thailand and Laos.

Promises To Press U.S. on Embargo

BK1201155992 Hanoi VNA in English 1438 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 12—Britain has promised to persuade the United States to lift its embargo against Vietnam and contribute to consolidating peace, stability, and cooperation in the region of Southeast Asia. The promise was made by Lord Caithness, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, during his five-day visit to Vietnam ending today. Lord Caithness and the British Foreign Ministry delegation held talks with a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry delegation led by its deputy minister Nguyen Di Nien.

The two sides exchanged views on the possibility of bilateral trade and investment cooperation as well as the prospect of cooperation between the two countries. The two sides expressed their satisfaction at their fruitful cooperation in solving the problem of Vietnamese illegal emigrants to Hong Kong and held that it is necessary to call for more international assistance to help the repatriates overcome difficulties and stabilize their life. The British minister of state valued highly the fine result of the renovation process in Vietnam and affirmed the British Government's desire to promote the bilateral cooperation, help Vietnam strengthen its relations with the European Community, and facilitate its ties with international financial and monetary organisations.

PRC Trade Group From Liaozhou Visits Haiphong

BK1101072592 Hanoi VNA in English 0552 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 11—An economic and trade delegation of Liaozhou city (China) led by Vice Mayor Song Shizhong has paid a working visit to the northern port city of Haiphong.

It held talks with a delegation from Haiphong on January 9, at which the two sides discussed matters relating to economic, trade, cultural and sports cooperation between the two cities.

Documents on trading cooperation (?at the) fair centre of Haiphong, and the founding of a Chinese restaurant in Haiphong were signed. The two sides also agreed in principle on cultural and sports cooperation agreements as well as some fields [words indistinct]

The delegations made fact-finding tours of a number of economic and trading establishments in Haiphong.

Vice Premier Receives Philippine Businessmen

BK1101070692 Hanoi VNA in English 0619 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 11—Vice Premier Phan Van Khai on January 9 received in Ho Chi Minh City a delegation of Philippine businessmen led by chairman of the Philippine Airlines Inc [words indistinct] Feliciano Belmonte.

The Vietnamese leader briefed his guests on Vietnam's achievements in economic renovation and need for foreign investment in economic development programme to the year 2000. He affirmed Vietnam's open-door policy and resolve to strengthen relations with Southeast Asian countries. The delegation, comprising of chairmen and vice chairmen of Philippine groups in power, mining, electronics and communications, left for Hanoi the same day.

Soviet, Russian Influence Said Disappearing

BK1101032392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 11 Jan 92 p A8

[Article by Kawi Chongkitthawon in Hanoi: "Where Have All the Soviets Gone?"]

[Text] "Have you seen the new flag?" the Russian ambassador, Rashit Khamidulin, asked in greeting to reporters covering his press conference late last month after Mikhail Gorbachev announced his resignation.

The new flag, a horizontal white, a blue and a red stripe, was hoisted in place of the accustomed red flag on Christmas Day. The flag was an old Russian flag used before the October Revolution.

Khamidulin spoke in Vietnamese, as if to accentuate the once-intimate relations between the former Soviet Union and Vietnam, but he was not as jovial as he was in former days.

Moscow, which used to provide most of Vietnam's much-needed foreign aid, has stopped all assistance, including the latest aid package agreed upon in early 1991.

Fortunately, its previous assistance to the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power plant has bene completed after the installation of the fourth generator.

A plan to establish the Pushkin Institute of Russian language has been scrapped following the breakup of the former Soviet Union.

At the press conference, Khamidulin said each republic now has to work out how much debt Vietnam owed them. Vietnam owed about US$14 billion to the former Soviet Union. Khamidulin said that the Russian Federation provided most of the aid to Vietnam, so it will receive the biggest share of the repayment.

A few days later, Vietnam announced its recognition of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Hanoi has already established extensive contact with the Russian Federation. Ukraine and Belarus. Hanoi and Ukraine last year signed a bilateral trade accord. Most of Vietnam's 50,000 workers in the former Soviet Union are living in these three republics.

One Russian diplomat said the future of these workers is uncertain, even though factories in the three republics are still in need of foreign workers. In Ukraine, several thousand Vietnamese are working in textile factories, while their compatriots are assembling "Zil" and "Landa" cars in Moscow.

"The Vietnamese workers do not want to return home. If they are living abroad, they can earn money by engaging in some small business such as selling and buying jeans from Vietnam," he said.

While the Vietnamse workers consider their life in the various republics as an opportunity to make money, many Russian diplomats consider life in Hanoi as the best thing for them for the time being.

"It is better to stay in Hanoi because things are better now," said a senior Rusisian diplomat who has been posted in Hanoi since the early 1970s. "Now, Vietnam should give some aid to Moscow," he said half-jokingly. However, that sense of irony is increasingly common here as the former Soviet presence is gradually fading out.

In the minds of officials from both sides, it seems the only thing that links Vietnam and the former Soviet Union is Cam Ranh Bay. Moscow still maintains a naval base there. But Russian diplomats said that before long, with the replacement of the Soviet Union by several independent states, the Cam Ranh Bay naval base will be a thing of the past.

Even the mass media, which used to be the vanguard of relations among communist countries, are heading for changes. Igor Soubin, one of the two correspondents of TASS NEWS AGENCY currently stationed in Hanoi, said that TASS will soon have to shut down its office here. TASS and Moscow TV are the only news organizations from the former Soviet Union to maintain offices in Hanoi.

Prior to 1988, about two dozen correspondents from Eastern Europe were based in Hanoi. All of them withdrew after the swift changes in Eastern Europe back in 1989.

Soubin said that, without any extra budget, he now has to cover the whole of Indochina from Hanoi.

Anxieties are also being felt by Vietnamese who spent major portions of their lives in the Soviet Union receiving an education and working.

A 37-year-old Vietnamese student, who spent almost 10 years in the former Soviet Union studying political economics said not everything he learned was useful. To improve his skill and knowledge, he is taking some computer courses. "Now the country I spent almost one-third of my life in is not there anymore," he lamented.

He said that sooner or later, the Soviet influence in Vietnam will disappear, even though tens of thousands of Vietnamese can speak the Russian language. These people can hardly expect to make a living out of their language ability, he said, although many speakers of Russian have studied additional languages such as English and French.

Soviet-made products and electronic appliances, which used to be popular items in Vietnam, are slowly being replaced by Japanese-, Chinese- or Thai-made goods.

Finally, with communism on the wane, Vietnam's top ideological school, Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute, is also contemplating changes in its curriculum. The institute, set up in the early 1960s following the Chinese model, plans to change its name and syllabus in an effort to keep up with rapid political changes. The new Institute of Political Science will offer, among other subjects, courses on the history of Southeast Asia and the political systems of Southeast Asian countries.

"It is a timely realization for the Vietnamese Communist Party that the study of other political ideologies, apart from Marxism and Leninism, has become important and crucial for the country's future," said a senior journalist, who asked not to be named.

Do Muoi Receives Cuban Envoy

BK1201152892 Hanoi VNA in English 1434 GMT 12 Jan 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 12—Cuban ambassadress Tania Maceira Delgado was cordially received here on Jan. 10 by Secretary General of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee [CC] Do Muoi.

The Vietnamese party leader informed his guest of the current renovation in Vietnam and affirmed Vietnam's firm solidarity with and strong support for Cuba's socialist construction and national defence.

Present on the occasion were Trinh Ngoc Thai, deputy head of the party CC's External Relations Commission, and Mr. Ruben Perez Valdes, politicial counsellor at the Cuban embassy in Vietnam.

Party Delegation Concludes Visit to Laos

BK1201142292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 26 Dec 91

[Text] According to a Vientiane-based Vietnam News Agency correspondent, the Communist Party of Vietnam Ideology and Culture Department delegation headed by Comrade Nguyen Thai Ninh, member of the party Central Committee and head of the party Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department, has successfully concluded its visit to Laos from 19-26 December.

While in Laos, the delegation held talks with the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee Propaganda and Training Department delegation headed by Comrade Somlat Chanthamat, member of the Political Bureau and head of the party Central Committee Propaganda and Training Department.

The two sides stressed the need to exchange experiences on a regular basis and to achieve close cooperation and coordination in this important task.

Our party Central Committee Ideology and Culture Department delegation paid a courtesy visit to Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democractic Republic.

Culture, Ideology Department Holds Conference

BK1301091292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] In Gia Lai Province, the Party Central Committee Culture and Ideology Department held the sixth conference of provincial lecturers in the central highlands on 25-26 December. Attending the conference were heads of the propaganda and education committees of nine provinces from Quang Nam-Danang to Lam Dong, and almost 100 lecturers.

The participants were briefed on important information related to the international and regional situations, our country's socioeconomic situation in 1991, socioeconomic tasks for 1992, and fundamental contents of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Second Plenum and those of the Eighth National Assembly's 10th Session.

Representatives from these provinces also exchanged experiences on organizing activities of the contingent of lecturers from the provincial down to the grass-roots levels. These activities are aimed at promptly and accurately providing urgent news and information to cadres and the people in localities.

General Doan Khue Hails Mass Organizations

BK1201085992 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 22 Dec 91

[Text] On the occasion of the 47th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA] and the All-Peoples National Defense Day 22 December, a delegation of the Vietnam War Veterans Association led by Senior Lieutenant General Song Hao, provisional chairman of the association, paid a visit to the Ministry of National Defense.

Comrade Ha Quang Du, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and first secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union [HCMCYU] Central Committee, also led a delegation to visit the Ministry of National Defense on the same occasion. He wished cadres and combatants of the VPA good health and more achievements in developing the glorious tradition of being determined to fight and win, which has been persistently maintained during the past 47 years.

Other groups paying visits to the Ministry of National Defense on this occasion were a delegation of the Vietnam Women's Union led by its president Nguyen Thi Dinh and a delegation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] led by Comrades Nguyen Triet and Nguyen Tien Vo, member of the VFF Central Committee Secretariat.

Gen. Doan Khue, on behalf of the Military Commission of the party Central Committee and the Ministry of National Defense, thanked mass organizations and echelons of the local administration for their contributions to building the all-people national defense and serving the people's Armed Forces. He asserted the Army's determination to maintain a firm political stand and its loyalty to the party and people while persistently enhancing combat strength and fulfilling the national construction and defense tasks.

Doan Khue Attends Army Inspection Conference

BK1201145192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 28 Dec 91

[Text] The Army general inspection sector organized a conference from 25-27 December to assess the results of an all-Army inspection drive aimed at evaluating the implementation of military tasks and national defense work, settlement of complaints and denunciations, and building of the inspection sector in 1991, as well as to discuss orientations and tasks for 1992.

General Doan Khue, member of the Political Bureau, deputy secretary of the party Central Committee Military Commission, and minister of national defense, attended the conference.

The participants exchanged views and unanimously agreed with the past achievements of the sector. Many inspection tours have been organized to assess the results of implementation of military tasks and national defense work focusing on Army-building activities, combat readiness, and improvement of the aggregated strength of the armed forces, with primary importance being given to combat readiness-related inspection tours.

Together with other forces and local administrative organs, the sector has contributed to guaranteeing political stability and public security and order; has stepped up inspection work on economic and financial management, enforcement of regulations governing the settlement of complaints and denunciations, the campaign against corruption and smuggling, and the drive against economic and financial violations; has taken action in cases involving violations of Army discipline and state law; and has helped recover property and financial assets of considerable value for state funds.

Draft Amendments to Constitution, Last Part

BK1001125392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 3 Jan 92

["Last part" of draft amendments to 1980 Constitution]

[Text] Revised Article 118: The people's councils of provinces and municipalities directly under the central government and the people's councils of districts, provincial capitals, and cities under the provincial authorities shall elect the chairmen, vice chairmen, and secretaries of the people's councils. The people's councils of villages, city wards, and district seats shall elect the chairmen of the local people's councils. Chairmen of the people's councils have the duty to secure conditions for the operations of the councils, supervise and oversee the implementation of the resolutions of the councils at the same levels, and are responsible to the councils.

Article 119, revised Article 118: The people's councils shall set up commissions to assist them in making investigative reports on those projects to be submitted to the councils, in conducting research and making recommendations to the councils as to how to resolve issues falling under the responsibilities of the commissions, in making preparations for the sessions of the councils, and in supervising the implementation of the resolutions of the councils.

Article 120, revised Article 119: Since they represent the will and aspirations of the local people, deputies to the people's councils must maintain close relations with the electors, accept their supervision, regularly inform them of their activities and those of the people's councils, respond to the requests and petitions made by the electors, and examine and respond to complaints and denunciations by the people.

Deputies to the people's councils have the duty to motivate the people to implement state laws and policies and resolutions of the councils, and encourage the local population to take part in the management of state affairs.

Article 121, revised Article 120: Deputies to the people's councils have the right to question heads of other bodies of the administrative committees, chief judges of people's courts, chief procurators of people's organs of control, and other state organs in their localities. The organs or individuals so questioned must answer before the people's councils within the time limit set by law.

Deputies to the people's councils have the right to petition to state organs in their localities. Leading officials of these organs have the responsibility to receive those deputies and examine and deal with their petitions.

Article 122, revised Article 121: Because they perform the functions of state administrative organs in the localities, administrative committees are responsible for the implementation of the Constitution, state law, and decisions of state organs at higher levels, and resolutions of the people's councils at the same levels.

Administrative committees shall be responsible and accountable to the administrative committees at the levels immediately above them and to the people's councils at the same levels. Administrative committees of provinces and municipalities directly under the central government shall be responsible and accountable to the prime minister and the people's councils at the same levels.

Article 123, revised Article 122: An administrative committee shall consist of the chairman, one or more vice chairmen, and other members. The number of vice chairmen and members of an administrative committee shall be determined by law. Chairmen of the administrative committees are deputies to the people's councils.

Chairmen of the administrative committees of provinces and municipalities directly under the central government shall be appointed by the prime minister on the recommendations of the people's councils at the same levels. The vice chairmen and other members of the administrative committees of provinces and municipalities directly under the central government shall be appointed by the prime minister on the recommendations of the chairmen of the administrative committees at the same levels.

The chairmen of the administrative committees of districts and cities under the provincial and province capital authorities shall be appointed by the chairmen of the administrative committees of provinces and municipalities directly under the central government on the recommendations of the people's councils at the same levels.

The vice chairmen and other members of the administrative committees of districts and cities under the provincial and province capital authorities shall be appointed by the chairmen of the administrative committees of provinces and municipalities directly under the central government on the recommendations of the chairmen of the administrative committees at the same levels.

The vice chairmen and other members of the administrative committees of villages, city wards, and district seats shall be appointed by the people's councils at the same levels.

Article 124, revised Article 123: If the chairmen of the people's councils deem that decisions or instructions of the administrative committees at the same levels are at variance with the Constitution, law, decisions of state organs at higher levels, and resolutions of the people's councils at the same levels, they shall request the administrative committees immediately above them to suspend the execution of or rescind such decisions or instructions.

Regarding those instructions of the administrative committees of provinces and municipalities directly under the central government which are at variance with the Constitution, law, decisions of state organs at higher levels, or resolutions of the people's councils at the same levels, the chairmen of the people's councils at the same levels must request the prime minister to suspend the execution of or rescind such instructions.

If the chairmen of the administrative committees deem that the resolutions of the people's councils at the same levels are at variance with the Constitution, law, or decisions of state organs at higher levels, they must request the chairmen of the administrative committees immediately above them to suspend the execution of such resolutions.

Decisions and directives of administrative committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government which are in defiance of the Constitution, law, decisions of higher-level state agencies, and resolutions of the people's council of corresponding level will be suspended or rescinded by the Council of Ministers chairman based on the proposal made by chairman of the people's council of the same level.

When a chairman of the administrative committee finds out that a resolution of the people's council of the corresponding level is in defiance of the Constitution, the law, and the decision of higher- echelon state agencies, he will make a proposal to the chairman of the administrative committee of the next higher level to suspend the execution of that resolution. Those resolutions of people's councils in provinces and municipalities subordinate to the central government which are in defiance of the Constitution, law, and decisions of the higher-level state agencies will be proposed to the Council of Ministers chairman by the chairman of the administrative committee of the same level for suspension.

Article 125, revised Article 124: The administrative committees at all levels, within the framework of their duties and powers vested in them by law, shall take decisions and give instructions, and supervise their implementation. Chairmen of the administrative committees have the right to suspend the execution of, or rescind, erroneous decisions by sectors under their administrative jurisdiction as well as those of administrative committees of the lower levels. They also have the right to suspend the execution of erroneous decisions of the people's councils of the lower echelon while making proposals to the people's councils of the same level to revise or rescind these decisions.

Article 126, new: Committees of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] and their member organizations shall inspect activities of elected deputies of the people's councils, administrative committees, and other state agencies in localities.

The chairman of the VFF Committee and responsible members of mass organizations of the VFF in localities will be invited to attend conferences of the people's council and administrative committee at their levels when warranted.

Chairmen of the people's councils and administrative committees shall file reports on all aspects of the situation in their localities to committees of the VFF while studying the VFF's ideas and proposals on building the administration and on socioeconomic development in their localities.

Revised Chapter 10

People's Courts and People's Organs of Control

Revised Article 127: The people's courts and people's organs of control in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam are, within their competence, obliged to protect the socialist legal system, the socialist system, the people's right to mastery, and socialist property and to ensure respect for the lives, property, freedom, honor and dignity of citizens.

People Courts

Revised Article 128: The Supreme People's Court, the local people's courts, the military tribunals and other courts set up by law are juridical bodies of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Under special circumstance, the National Assembly may decide to set up special tribunals.

Appropriate people's organizations shall be formed at the grass roots to deal with minor breaches of law or people's disputes, in accordance with the law.

Revised Article 129: Appointment and term of office of the chief judges, the election and term of office of people's assessors at various levels of the people's courts will be defined by law.

Revised Article 130: Trials at the people's courts shall be held with the participation of people's assessors in keeping with the law. In the administration of justice, the people's assessors have the same powers as judges.

Revised Article 131: During trials, judges and people's assessors are independent and subject only to law.

Revised Article 132: The people's courts shall make judgements and pass sentence collectively by majority decision.

Revised Article 133: Proceedings in people's courts shall be open to the public, unless otherwise stipulated by law.

The defendants' right to plead their cases is guaranteed. Defendants may plead their cases by themselves or ask other people to help them.

A jurist organization may be formed to give legal assistance to the defendants and other persons concerned to protect their rights and legitimate interests and to contribute to protecting the socialist legal system in accordance with stipulations of the law.

Article 134, unchanged: The people's courts shall ensure on behalf of the citizens of all nationalities in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam the right to use their own spoken languages and scripts before the courts.

Revised article 135: The Supreme People's Court is the highest juridical body of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Supreme People's Court shall supervise the proceedings of local people's courts, military tribunals, and other courts.

The Supreme People's Court shall supervise the proceedings of the special courts, unless the National Assembly decides otherwise when setting up these courts.

Revised Article 136: The Supreme People's Court shall be responsible and accountable to the National Assembly; when the National Assembly is not in session, it shall be responsible and accountable to the Council of State.

Local people's courts shall be responsible and accountable to the people's councils at the same levels.

Revised Article 137: The verdicts and decisions of the people's courts, as soon as they take legal effect, must be respected by state organs, economic and social organizations, the people's armed forces, and all citizens; the persons and units concerned must strictly implement them.

The People's Organs of Control

Revised Article 138: The Supreme People's Organ of Control of the SRV shall control the observance of law by the ministries and other government bodies, local organs of power, economic and social organizations, people's armed forces, public servants, employees of economic and social organizations, and all citizens. It shall exercise the right of public prosecution and ensure the strict and uniform observance of law.

The local people's organs of control and the military organs of control shall control the observance of law and exercise the right of public prosecution within their spheres of responsibility.

Article 139, revised Article 140: A people's organ of control shall be led by its chief procurator.

The chief procurator of a lower people's organ of control shall be subordinate to his counterpart in the immediately senior people's organ of control.

The chiefs of the local people's organs of control and chief procurators of military organs of control at all levels shall be under the unified leadership of the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

The chief and deputy chief procurators and members of local people's organs of control and military organs of control of military regions and zones shall be appointed and removed by the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control.

Article 140, combined Article 139 of the 1980 Constitution with revised Article 141: The term of office of the chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control corresponds to that of the National Assembly.

The chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control shall be responsible and accountable to the National Assembly; when the National Assembly is not in session, he or she shall be responsible and accountable to the Council of State.

Article 141, new: The chief procurators of the local people's organs of control shall be responsible to report and answer questions from deputies of the people's council on the local situation of law enforcement.

Chapter 11, Revised

The National Flag, National Emblem, National Anthem, and National Capital.

Article 142, unchanged: The national flag of the SRV consists of a rectangle of red cloth, with a five-pointed golden star in the middle; the ratio of the width of the flag to its length is 2/3.

Article 143, unchanged: The national emblem of the SRV is round in form with a red background. In its center is a five-pointed golden star framed by ears of rice. Its lower half is rimmed by a halved-cogwheel with the inscription: The Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Article 144, revised: The national anthem of the SRV is *Tien Quan Ca* [Troops Marching Song].

Article 145, unchanged: The capital of the SRV is Hanoi.

Chapter 12, Unchanged

Legal Force of the Constitution and Procedure for Amending the Constitution

Article 146, unchanged: The Constitution of the SRV is the fundamental law of the state and has supreme legal force. All other legal documents must be consistent with the constitution.

Article 147, unchanged: Only the National Assembly shall have power to amend the Constitution.

Amendments to the Constitution shall require, for their adoption, a majority vote of not less than two-thirds of the total number of deputies of the National Assembly.

Recent Changes in Military Viewed

BK1101025192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 Jan 92 p 4

[Article by Jacques Bekaert from the "Eye on Indochina" column: "VN Army Moving With the Times"]

[Text] "The formulation of correct military lines and art will significantly ensure success for the cause of defending the Socialist Vietnamese fatherland," wrote Lieutenant General Doan Chuong in a recent article published by the Vietnamese Army's theoretical review TAP CHI QUOC PHUONG TOAN DAN.

Indeed, the protection of the socialist system appears to have become a top priority of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN). Following the end of the Vietnam War, the importance of building a less ideological but more traditional army has led the Party, obviously under some pressure from the military, to reduce the role of political officers. The idea of a "one-man command" or "one commander" gained support and in some cases it seemed that political officers had been eliminated.

But today, as the socialist world crumbles, the struggle is once more ideological. A report by the Military Commission of the Central Committee, which defines the task of the army for the years 1991-1995, explains that a "comprehensive and unprecedentedly severe crisis took place in the socialist camp and developed to such an extent that it has disintegrated the socialist states" in Eastern Europe. The result, it says, was "a negative impact on the world revolutionary movement."

"Taking advantage of the situation, the imperialist forces have vigorously implemented a new global counter-revolutionary strategy aimed at quickly eliminating socialism from the whole world in this decade," the report says. "Our Vietnamese nation is one of their key sabotage targets."

The enemy is never clearly identified. The imperialist forces? Yes, but who are exactly the imperialists today? Does the United States still care much about Vietnam, one way or the other?

The Gulf War still preoccupies Vietnamese military strategists. They have been impressed by the extent of the Desert Storm operation, by the determination of the United States and its capacity to deploy a vast and sophisticated army. Some Vietnamese military commentators have even implied that such a force could in the future be used against Vietnam.

And what the "imperialists" have in mind, at least in the eyes of the author of the Military Commission report, is almost apocalyptic.

By using all kinds of "perfidious and drastic measures against the socialist camp, the imperialists will ensure the victory for capitalism and put the entire world under the control of imperialism," says the report.

There is no doubt that the final implosion of the USSR will reinforce the Vietnamese military leadership's conviction that there has been some kind of gigantic plot at work, probably concocted in Washington with additional funds from Western Europe and Japan, which led to the end of the USSR. It may sound a bit far-fetched to most readers, but in Hanoi's view such thinking has at least a touch of plausibility.

Since its foundation in 1950 the PAVN has had no better friend than the Soviet army (even if China was at first a more generous donor). Close military, ideological and personal links have naturally developed between the two armed forces. It is not easy for a Vietnamese general, who admired the strength and dedication of the Soviet Armed Forces all his adult life, to see the USSR reduced to a collection of independent states, struggling to feed their people.

Faced with severe budget restrictions and the need to further demobilise a portion of its forces (already some 600,000 men have been demobilised since 1987), the PAVN leadership must justify its existence. In a sense it needs enemies. The PAVN has a great past. It was once considered the best army in Asia (and may still be), it won battles against better equipped enemies, and was probably the most popular institution in communist Vietnam.

But it is a different story today. "Having gone through various stages of war, more than 70 percent of... weapons and ammunition (in storage) have been damaged considerably and are deteriorating rapidly," said Lieutenant Le Kha Phieu, the new head of the General Political Department. "Because of budget constraints, the conditions of many storage facilities have not yet been perfected."

"We need new, better weapons," a senior army source told us a few months ago in Hanoi. "But we have no money to buy anything." The Vietnamese Navy, reinforced in the past decade by the USSR, is still too small for a country with a long coastline and faraway islands. Worries about the future of the Spratly Islands and the desire to avoid incidents similar to those of 1988 (when the Chinese Navy sank three Vietnamese ships in the Spratlys) probably prompted the PAVN leadership to accept rapprochement with China.

The Vietnamese Army is in full reorganisation. What the military leadership wants is a smaller, better trained, and better equipped army. In the late seventies and early eighties Vietnam received some fairly sophisticated equipment from the USSR. Many of the younger offices have been trained abroad, have good technological background and are probably less sensitive to ideological issues.

The Party nevertheless is determined to keep tight control over the armed forces. If efforts are made to improve military science and technology it is in accordance with the Party's military thinking. Important studies have been commissioned regarding past campaigns in Cambodia and Laos, but a senior military source said "they will not deal with the political aspects of these campaigns."

The Vietnamese Army is keen to develop better ties with other armed forces, including "Southeast Asian countries, especially India and Indonesia." The army is also doing its best to adjust to the new economic mechanism. The fact that many units are engaged in production work is nothing new. But civilian sources are a bit concerned that the army would go too far with its commercial enterprises over which the government has little or no control.

Militia and regional forces are in the process of reorganisation. And more attention is again brought to ideological matters. The percentage of party members among militia and self-defence troops has increased from 10.5 to 12.7 per cent, and among Youth Union members form 27.2 to 41.8 per cent.

Maybe the most significant political measure is the "restoration and consolidation" of the "system of Party committee from the Central Committee's military commission down to Party bases" in order to raise the "standards of leadership and military and enhance the quality of Party members and intensify Party control," says the report.

Another important point is the decision to "coordinate closely with the Ministry of Interior and other sectors and echelons to firmly control the plots and acts of reactionary forces both at home and abroad." The conclusion is clear: "Together with all the people, we must prevent and promptly smash all enemy operations." I still believe, however, that it would help to define the enemy.

Phan Van Khai at Resistance Day Ceremony

BK1001074592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Report on speech by Phan Van Khai, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, at ceremony held in Hanoi on 18 January to mark the 45th anniversary of national resistance day—portions recorded]

[Summary] A solemn ceremony was jointly held in Hanoi this afternoon by the Council of Ministers, the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee, and the Hanoi municipal people's and VFF committees to mark the 45th anniversary of national resistance day, 19 December.

"Attending the ceremony were Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Party Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the State Council; Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Pham Van Dong, adviser to the Party Central Committee; General Vo Nguyen Giap; General Doan Khue, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of national defense; Comrade Phan Van Khai, member of the Party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Comrade Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the VFF Central Committee Presidium; Comrade Dam Quang Trung, chairman of the National Assembly Nationalities Council; and other comrades representing various mass organizations, organs, and sectors at the central level and in Hanoi and the Hanoi municipal people's and VFF committees."

Also present were representatives of veteran revolutionaries, families having rendered service to the revolution, heroes of the Armed Forces, and the people of all strata in the capital.

"Addressing the ceremony, Comrade Phan Van Khai pointed out the historic significance of the national resistance day 45 years ago—the opening day of the resistance of glorious historic significance in the process of our people's protracted and arduous revolutionary struggle. Comrade Phan Van Khai said:

[Begin Phan Van Khai recording] "In this glorious historic anniversary, all Vietnamese—their hearts flushed with pride, remember esteemed President Ho Chi Minh, the man who always upheld the banner of peace. However, to achieve genuine peace he persistently led his entire people in the struggle to safeguard national independence. Even in the long process of resistance, he looked forward to the future with its two inseparable strategic tasks—carrying out the resistance while engaging in national construction.

"In this anniversary, we can take greater pride in the fact that despite sacrifice and hardship, we are still able to firmly keep our vow that we would rather die than lose our country or be slaves. As with the latent strength of the Vietnamese people, that dauntless will has been forged and developed throughout our long history of national construction and defense. It has also been transformed into the truth by President Ho Chi Minh that nothing is more precious than independence and freedom.

"The fact that our entire people are able to ensure unity, firmly believe in our victory, and jointly work for our great cause is a valuable lesson of experience in the history of our nation. Forty-five years ago, under an extremely difficult situation, responding to the sacred call of the fatherland and the appeal of Uncle Ho, our entire people—regardless of sex, age, religion, faction, and nationality—enthusiastically rose up with guns, swords, picks, shovels, and sticks to fight side by side with each other for the defense of the country and win victory.

"We profoundly understand the path on which our people have travelled, as well as the price we must pay and things we must do to protect the dignity and right of a nation to live in independence, freedom, and equality with other nations in the world. [applause] [end recording]

"Next, Comrade Phan Van Khai warmly commended the VPA [Vietnam People's Army]—an Army built and trained by the party and Uncle Ho—for its rapid growth and illustrious military exploits, thanks to its blood-sealed solidarity with the people.

"On the occasion of the forthcoming 45th founding anniversary of our Army on 22 December, Comrade Phan Van Khai expressed our entire party and people's pride in and gratitude for the Army. He also expressed the hope that all generals, officers, noncommissioned officers, combatants, and national defense workers will constantly develop the glorious tradition of the Army and serve as defense pillars of the country's independence and sovereignty and the people's freedom and happiness, thus making themselves forever worthy of the title 'Uncle Ho's soldiers.'"

"Comrade Phan Van Khai also expressed profound gratitude to all fallen heroes and combatants, disabled and ailing soldiers, families who have rendered services to the revolution, those who have fought selflessly for several decades for the country and people, and unknown soldiers, for their voluminous contributions to the liberation and defense of the country, the building of socialism, and the fulfillment of glorious international duties. He said: "It is the conscience and responsibility of the party and state and our entire people to satisfactorily enforce the policy of repaying these combatants and families for their meritorious services.

"Comrade Phan Van Khai analyzed our country's situation in the process of renovation together with the highly important achievements recorded and serious difficulties and ordeals encountered by our people. He said:

[Begin Phan Van Khai recording] "In light of the sEventh party congress' resolutions, the second plenum of the party Central Committee, held in late November and early December 1991, profoundly analyzed the new difficulties and favorable conditions at home and abroad and discussed and adopted guidelines for the tasks and measures to stabilize and improve the socioconomic situation between 1992 and 1995. It also provided basic views and guidelines for revising the constitution, augmenting the state machinery, and renovating party leadership over state affairs. These are highly important tasks and guidelines for comprehensively and uniformly accelerating renovation.

"The Eighth National Assembly is also holding its 10th session to decide on the tasks of stabilizing and developing our economy and society for the next five years.

"The Second Plenum of the Party Central Committee and the report of the Council of Ministers at the 10th session of the National Assembly pointed out that 1992 and the ensuing years will be of vital significance to our country. The important tasks for this period involve establishing order and discipline in line with the new mechanism and ameliorating market and social relations to create a favorable environment and conditions for vigorously developing the multicomponent commodity economy and practising it under a market-oriented mechanism and state management. This is the basic guideline for developing to the highest degree the potentials—in labor, intellect, arable land, natural resources, capital, and property—of each family, each collective, and our entire society.

"Meanwhile, we must effectively make the fullest use of the new capabilities in expanding our external economic relations to amass capital and acquire technology from other countries and seek a position on the world market. Only by successfully carrying out these important tasks can we certainly achieve all the targets for socioeconomic stabilization and development—a basic condition for reinforcing political and ideological stability to pave the way for our country to retain a firm stand and continue advancing toward socialism.

"Marking the 45th anniversary of the national resistance day, let our entire party, people, and Army fortify their patriotic tradition and national pride in the struggle to successfully carry out all the tasks related to socioeconomic stabilization and development laid down by the seventh party congress and second plenum of the party Central Committee, as well as to apply all the resolutions of the Eighth National Assembly's 10th session to life.

"All of our citizens must bring into full play their right as masters of the country and contribute their intellect to the drafting of the revised constitution so as to help increase and carry out the efficiency of the state of the people, by the people, and for the people under the party's leadership.

"From the complex changes in the world situation and by looking at the past, we can see even more clearly the importance of the two tasks of building and defending the country. These are the law of existence and development of our Vietnamese nation. While concentrating efforts on building and developing the economy and firmly maintaining political stability, we must constantly consolidate national defense and security in order to safeguard the country under all circumstance." [Applause] [End recording]

"The ceremony held in Hanoi this afternoon to mark the 45th anniversary of the national resistance day proceeded in an atmosphere of solemnity and significance.

"As Comrade Phan Van Khai affirmed in the concluding part of his speech, 45 years ago our people, from the north to the south and millions as one, rose up determined to be masters of their own destiny and to retain their oath in the declaration of independence that they would resolutely devote all their mind and energy and life and property to firmly defending their independence and freedom. Today, despite the fact that we are facing the most difficult tasks, if we believe in the ability of our party, people, and Army—which has been tempered by many ordeals, we will certainly be able to overcome difficulties and successfully build socialism for the sake of the prosperity our country and happiness of our people."

Implementation of Directive on Signboards Urged

BK1301060392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 27 Dec 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers Office on 26 December sent a message to the Central Market Management Steering Committee, the Ministry of Interior, and people's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government urging the implementation of the Council of Ministers' directive on production and business signboards.

The message said: On 5 November 1991, the Council of Ministers chairman issued Directive No. 361-CT on signboards for production and business corporations and enterprises. To seriously implement this directive, the Council of Ministers Office, on behalf of the Council of Ministers chairman, requests that from now until 31 December 1991, ministries, sectors, agencies, mass organizations, and echelons of people's committees must urge all production and business establishments belonging to all economic components to strictly implement the stipulations of this directive.

The Central Market Management Steering Committee should instruct echelons of market management committees—with the assistance of the economic police force—to check the implementation of this directive in localities throughout the country from 1 January 1992. All signboards of organizations, corporations, enterprises, business centers and households, and joint venture business enterprises which did not provide adequate Vietnamese language and were not consistent with the names registered in their licenses, will be removed and subjected to fines for violating the administrative law. For signboards of a small number of Vietnamese and foreign special economic agencies established in Vietnam, they must correctly comply with article three of Directive No. 361-CT.

On 5 January, people's committees of provinces and municipalities and the Central Market Management Steering Committee filed a report to the Council of Ministers chairman on the results of the implementation of this directive. The report pointed out violations made by agencies, sectors, mass organizations, and localities. The list of violators has been compiled and measures will be taken on their cases soon.

Phan Trong Tue Rites Held in Ho Chi Minh City

BK1301094992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] On 20 December, the funeral of Comrade Phan Trong Tue, former Central Committee member of the Communist Party of Vietnam, former deputy prime minister, former minister of transportation, former National Assembly deputy, former Central Military Party Committee member, former deputy minister of public security, and former commander of the Public Security Forces was solemnly held in Ho Chi Minh City.

More than 220 delegations from the organs, departments, and sectors of central government, Ho Chi Minh City, and provinces paid last respects to Comrade Phan Trong Tue. Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, adviser to the party Central Committee, laid a wreath. Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet sent their wreaths to the funeral. Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the State Council, sent a message of sympathy.

At the funeral, Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of party Political Bureau, secretary of Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, and head of the funeral ceremony, delivered a speech recalling the biography and revolutionary activities of Comrade Phan Trong Tue.

He said: With any position entrusted by the party, Comrade Phan Trong Tue always showed that he was a good leader, working close with his subordinates. Comrade Phan Trong Tue was fully aware during any situation and brave and creative in implementing the party and Uncle Ho's lines to overcome difficulties and to create a united and winning force. Comrade Tue is deserving of the honor of bravery, a steadfast communist, unchanged and always optimistic during difficulties and ordeals. In any circumstance, Comrade Phan Trong Tue always brilliantly showed his revolutionary heroism for younger generations to follow.

After the funeral, the body of Comrade Phan Trong Tue was buried at the Ho Chi Minh City Cemetery.

Australia

Mobile Phone Venture Agreement Signed With SRV

BK1301080692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Australia's telecommunications authority has signed an agreement to build a mobile telephone network in Vietnam. The joint venture with Vietnam's domestic carrier will initially provide mobile phone services in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City before expanding to regional centers.

Telecom Australia says its latest project will complement earlier involvement in satellite earth stations in Hanoi, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City.

Fiji

Trade Union Congress Protests New Labor Laws

BK1301065292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The Fiji Trade Union Congress [TUC] have called a general strike next month in protest against the country's new labor laws. President of the congress, Michael Columbus, said industrial action by Fiji unionists will be backed by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and affiliated unions in other countries. He said the confederation is considering whether it would make representations to the European Community, the United Nations, and other international bodies to apply sanctions against Fiji in protest against the laws. Mr. Columbus did not say how long the strike would last, only that all TUC strike committees had been activated.

The new labor laws require ballots among unionists on whether to strike and heavy penalties for unlawful stoppages. A Fiji Government delegation is currently in Sydney to explain the laws to Australian union officials. The visit follows the ban imposed two weeks ago by the Australian Workers Union against Fiji's national airline, Air Pacific.

Papua New Guinea

Bougainville Rebels Seize Cargo Ship 11 Jan

BK1101054492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA], has seized the cargo ship, (Cosmaros), after it arrived in Kieta yesterday with medical supplies. The BRA says it will not release the ship until the Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government meets a number of its demands.

The BRA says it wants the PNG Government to send another vessel for commercial cargo which had been unloaded from the (Cosmaros) before it left Rabaul for Bougainville. In a statement sent by radio from the separatist stronghold of Arawa to the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation, rebel leader Francis Ona said the separatists also needed a genuine lifting of a blockade imposed early last year.

He said that although Papua New Guinea claimed the blockade had been lifted this has not happened because nongovernment organizations had not been allowed into areas where there are no PNG Defense Force personnel. According to the statement, the chairman of the so-called Bougainville interim government, Joseph Kabui, used the radio aboard the (Cosmaros) to send the rebel demand to Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu. Mr. Kabui said he does not want any unnecessary aggression by PNG security forces in retaliation for the seizure of the (Cosmaros). He also informed the ship's owner that the BRA guarantees the safety of the captain and crew of the (Cosmaros) who had been allowed to go on shore.

Unload, Distribute Medical Supplies

BK1301072092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The International Red Cross says the cargo ship which took medical supplies to the Bougainville port of Kieta last week will sail tonight. Earlier reports that the motor vessel (Cosmaros) had been detained by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] and would be held until the Papua New Guinea Government lifted its blockade of the island. The BRA also demanded the delivery of other cargo bound for Bougainville which was unloaded in Rabaul before the (Cosmaros) was allowed to sail to Kieta.

However, a Red Cross spokesman in Rabaul said the captain of the (Cosmaros) had radioed that the ship would sail from Kieta tonight. The spokesman added that all medical supplies on board had been unloaded and was then distributed by the head of the Red Cross relief operation, Dr. (Damian Wolfhart). He said two Australian health workers had also arrived in Kieta and were working to implement an immunization program.